Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Borja is Mount Carmel's Teacher of the Year. PAGE 5

AG: Fernandez probe done this week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General's investigation against suspended Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez is expected to be finished within the week, according to Attorney General Edward Buckingham yesterday.

Fernandez

He said the results of the probe will be shared with the Board of Regents, which set to meet on Feb. 22.

Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the OAG recently held preliminary meetings with the regents and interim NMC president Lorraine Cabrera where they discussed the details of the probe.

"We held preliminary meetings… We're

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RELATED NEWS

McPhetres not interested in NMC presidency.

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ANOTHER WORK DAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GPPC Inc.'s Roner Crisostimo prepares to operate a case backhoe while Guillermo Chico, right, loads some construction equipment into the backhoe shortly before leaving the work site of a sewer and waterline layout pipe project at the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday afternoon. GPPC Inc.'s three-week project, which began on Jan. 25, will hook up the water and sewer line at the Micro Beach Pavilion to the American Memorial Park.

Kilili calls for hearing on marine monument bills

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has sent a formal request for a legislative hearing on two bills dealing with the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument to the chair of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife, Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

Sablan

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White House confirms Obama family's Guam visit

Fitial sees 'immense potential opportunities' for Marianas trip

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The White House has confirmed President Barack Obama's visit to Guam in the second half of March, along with first lady Michelle Obama and their two daughters, Sasha and Malia, as they travel to Indonesia and Australia, but there still is no word on the specific date and the duration of the trip to Guam.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs, in a Feb. 1 transcript of statements during a news briefing, said

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89 pct. increase in January vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Vehicle sales are off to a good start this year with a whopping 89 percent increase in January, latest data from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association shows.

The three-member CADA reported yesterday that it sold 68 new cars, vans, trucks and sports utility vehicles in January, compared to only 36 sold during the same month last year.

December sales also saw a major increase of 73 percent due to a combi-

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support Bordallo's "Bonitan Tåsi" bill, which would give Guam management rights over the Marianas Marine Monument?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Local

Brown: Bellas earned $200K per year in his job as GOB chairman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former judge Timothy Bellas pulled down over $200,000 per year in the Garment Oversight Board job that he has held since 2006, according to Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown.

"Bellas acts as the attorney for the [Garment Workers Trust Fund] and sits on the Garment Oversight Board—can you spell conflict of interest?" Brown told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail.

She said the composition and compensation of the GOB is a matter of public record.

The federal ombudsman issued the statement in response to Bellas' disclosure that the lawyers representing former garment factory workers in the class lawsuit against the garment industry received $8 million in attorneys' fees. Bellas also stated that one of the local counsels for the garment workers was Brown, who received $240,000.

Brown said the federal court has all the records on the attorneys' fees as each payment to any plaintiff attorney was approved by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson.

"Many were disapproved. The $8 million—assuming that is correct—was what was set aside from the settlement agreement. Not all of it was paid out to attorneys," she said.

Brown said the class-action lawyers themselves—Millberg Weiss—waived all of their fees.

Brown said the only lawyers who got money were those like her on the ground who were actually conducting the evidence gathering.

"Why do you think there was a settlement? The kind hearts of the garment manufacturers?" she asked.

Brown clarified that Bellas and the plaintiffs' attorneys had a listing of all garment workers who were to benefit from the garment trust fund—garment workers in all but one or two of the factories operating from 1989 to 2003 in the CNMI.

In her opinion, Brown said, any other listing that Bellas is using to justify the distribution is irrelevant.

With respect to her role in a petition signed by some garment workers and submitted to Munson to stop Bellas from donating $625,000 to 14 institutions, Brown said she simply reviewed the letter to make sure that the 900 workers who came to her office followed the instructions of Bellas to file some type of claim—to tell the story that they told her.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the Garment Workers Trust Fund. The GOB, then chaired by Bellas and two other members, was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry. Munson closed the GOB in October 2008 and formed the trust fund.

Bellas also chairs the trust fund. The other trustees are former California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso and former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy.

When asked to comment on Brown's statements about his GOB job, Bellas said their fees are fixed by the settlement agreement and that it was $120,000 per year, not $200,000.

"That money is separate in the settlement and it goes to the GOB. That money was supposed to pay us and pay for services to conduct the inspection by monitors. That money went mostly to the monitoring," he said.

The former judge said part of the money also went to the repatriation fund.

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CHC staff escapes motorist's machete attack

A motorist armed with a machete allegedly attacked an employee of the Commonwealth Health Center who was driving a scooter along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau Sunday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said yesterday that the victim, Thomas Asack, was not injured as a witness managed to rescue him by getting him into a vehicle.

Saipan Tribune learned that Asack is a respiratory therapist at CHC. Fearing for his life, he was reportedly planning to go back to the U.S. mainland. Unconfirmed information indicated that he left Saipan yesterday.

David said Asack identified the attacker as a certain Franklin Crisostimo.

"No arrest was made yet as of yesterday as the case is under investigation," David said.

David said that, on Sunday at 11:40am DPS received a call about a disturbance at the parking lot of McDonald's in Chalan Laulau.

Preliminary report showed that Asack was traveling south on a scooter along Middle Road when he noticed a silver CRV traveling north in the opposite lane.

Asack continued traveling south, but suddenly the same silver CRV pulled near his side, causing him to nearly crash. The vehicle, being driven by Crisostimo, then sped away.

Fearing for his safety, Asack pulled alongside the parking lot of the Taste of India Restaurant and attempted to call the police for assistance.

Asack later noticed that the same CRV was pulling into the parking lot. He saw Crisostimo exiting his vehicle and shouting he was going to kill him and at the same time swinging a machete.

The victim ran away until he reached the main highway of Middle Road. A witness aboard a vehicle pulled over to pick up Asack.

The witness managed to drive away from the suspect, who continued the chase and hit the vehicle with the machete.

The victim and the witness parked near McDonald's where they called police.

The witness' vehicle had minor dents and scratches on the hood and roof, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fitial reappoints 3 more officials

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reappointed yesterday Esther S. Fleming as special assistant for administration, Patrick P. Tenorio as special assistant for homeland security, and Joaquin Omar as director of the Emergency Management Office.

Their re-appointments do not need Senate confirmation.

"Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos and I are very pleased with their performances and we look forward to their continued service to the Commonwealth," Fitial said in a statement.

At the same time, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) said yesterday that he asked two of the five Cabinet re-appointees and appointees of the governor to submit the required documents to the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, which he currently chairs.

The appointments of Cabinet secretaries require the advice and consent of the Senate.

So far, Fitial has named five Cabinet appointees and re-appointees.

Fitial has also announced the re-appointment or appointment of four of some 25 other political appointees to date.

Cruz, in a phone interview, said he sent letters on Monday to reappointed Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela and Martin C. Sablan, who was appointed Department of Public Works secretary on Friday.

The EAGI Committee chairman, however, has yet to receive the reappointment and appointment letters of three more Cabinet members that Fitial sent out on Monday.

Each appointee or re-appointee needs to submit to the Senate EAGI Committee the following documents: Resume, statement of financial interests stamped as having been received by the Office of the Public Auditor, drug test receipt and results, and police clearance.

Once the Senate EAGI committee receives the documents, it would then convene a meeting of committee members and schedule public hearings on the governor's appointments.

The Cabinet appointees and re-appointees named by Fitial so far, and need to undergo Senate confirmation, are:

■ Santiago F. Tudela, reappointed as Department of Public Safety commissioner.

■ Martin C. Sablan, appointed as DPW secretary to replace Diego Songsong who stepped down last month to pursue studies off-island.

■ Former Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, appointed new Department of Public Lands secretary to replace John S. DelRosario, who stepped down from his post.

■ Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, reappointed secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

■ Adam Hardwicke, reappointed Public Defender.

They will serve in acting capacities until confirmed by the Senate.

Fitial has yet to name his appointees or re-appointees for secretaries or heads of other agencies, including Public Health, Finance, Labor, Community and Cultural Affairs, Commerce, Office of the Attorney General, as well as Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Besides the three that Fitial named yesterday but do not need Senate confirmation, the governor also named Virginia C. Villagomez to serve as the special assistant for the Office of Management and Budget on Friday.

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Fitial extends CUC emergency declaration, again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the 17th time since August 2008, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew for 30 days the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Jan. 23 with almost no changes from the previous declaration which raised concern about wastewater failures continuing at an accelerated rate.

At the same time, CUC executive director Tony Muña said last night that the utilities agency was able to avert a $500 per day fine by meeting the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's end-January 2010 deadline to submit a technically complex rate case.

Fitial's latest extension of declaration of a state of disaster emergency for CUC came a day after he vetoed a bill seeking to limit the governor's power in making emergency declarations, saying the stricter reporting requirement is "unnecessary and unduly burdensome."

Fitial said he commends the Legislature for introducing House Bill 16-91, HD1, for stricter reporting requirements when a state of emergency is declared and to shorten the time of the emergency but he said the stricter reporting requirement is "unnecessary and unduly burdensome" at this time as all departments and agencies in government are currently operating with meager resources and less staff.

CUC's emergency declaration suspends procurement regulations for CUC to cope with emergency needs, among other things.

Fitial first declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008 and has since been extending the emergency declaration every month.

The declaration states that a shortage of manpower forced by legislation limiting skilled foreign workers has continued to place CUC operations at risk.

It also said that errors in wording in the CUC enabling legislation recently re-enacted, Public Law 16-17, as amended, would bar the executive director from day-to-day management of the corporation, effectively shutting down CUC.

"This EO [executive order] eliminates these problems while it is in effect," the governor said.

McPhetres not interested in NMC presidency

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Should the position be announced vacant, former Northern Marianas College president Agnes McPhetres says she is not interested in going back to the institution as its chief executive officer.

"No. I don't have any plans of going back to the NMC presidency," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding she had already retired from the position.

She expressed willingness, though, to provide advice and guidance, adding that she could still contribute and serve the island's only community college in her capacity as an ordinary citizen.

McPhetres had also served the college's Board of Regents but was not allowed to return after she resigned then withdrew her resignation.

Yesterday, she said she wouldn't mind if she is reappointed to the board.

McPhetres said that, although NMC's condition was not perfect during her 18-year presidency, she's proud of its good accreditation standing and good financial management.

"Although it wasn't perfect…NMC was considered the star college in the Pacific," she said.

She blamed the present controversies on campus not only on its suspended president, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, but also the previous board, which she said just let the president run the college without any much guidance.

"It is pity that it has escalated to this level and I will not fault altogether the president because I think the board is also guilty of what is happening at the college," she said.

She described the problems at the college as "all about management."

Despite the current crop of problems besetting the college, McPhetres believes the situation has no immediate effect on the college's accreditation because concerns of the commission have been addressed by the institution.

"But if it is not resolved as soon as possible, it will certainly affect the status," she said.

McPhetres is the college's first president in 1981; she retired in December 1999.

AG

From Page 1

still working out the details and scope of the investigation," Buckingham said.

He said a member of his office was designated as the investigator of the case.

Buckingham confirmed that results are expected "very soon."

"In terms of timing, we're probably no more by the end of this week," the AG said.

Fernandez has been on indefinite suspension since Jan. 12 pending the results of two separate investigations being conducted lby the Board of Regents and the OAG. Cabrera was named interim president until further notice.

Saipan Tribune learned that the OAG is specifically looking into allegations that Fernandez had the grades of some students changed, while the regents' team is looking into "employment contracts and personnel issues" within the college.

Fernandez has been criticized for her management and leadership style that many believe caused the departure of a large number of college employees, many in key and managerial positions.

During the over two years that Fernandez has been president of the college, there have been a total of over 20 turnovers in leadership positions, including three academic deans, three student services deans, three chief financial officers, three directors of institutional effectiveness, three admission directors, two librarian directors, three bookstore managers, and several department chairpersons.

Board of Regents personnel committee chair Andrew Orsini refused to comment yesterday on the details of the board investigation, saying it may jeopardize the ongoing process.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact board chair Janet H. King yesterday to clarify the timeframe set for the board's probe but she's did not answer her cell phone. She also did not respond to e-mail inquiries.

NMC has nearly a thousand enrollees this Spring semester. It just reaffirmed its accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in June last year after over a year of being on show-cause status. Last Oct. 15, it submitted its self-study report to the commission, which has yet to accept the report.

WHITE HOUSE

From Page 1

Obama "will visit Guam, where he will speak with U.S. service members on the island," adding that "we'll have more specific dates for you shortly after they are completely done with the pre-advance."

The presidential visit comes at a time when the military buildup in Guam is looming.

However, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho asked Navy Secretary Ray Mabus last week to delay the implementation of the military buildup beyond 2014 "to protect the integrity of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and ensure that impacts are minimized to our island infrastructure and socioeconomic services."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, meanwhile, said yesterday that he "recognizes the immense potential opportunities of a presidential visit to the Marianas."

Saipan, the capital of the CNMI, is only about 138 miles from Guam.

"We are awaiting further details from the White House regarding the president's visit. Once we get the details, we will be better positioned to maximize our efforts in approaching this monumental event," he said in response to *Saipan Tribune* questions.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said while they know that Obama is coming to Guam, they have very little details about his stopover.

"It is always great to have the president visit the Marianas, even if that does not include a stop in the Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

Some CNMI officials echoed Fitial and Sablan's statements, saying that a presidential visit to the Marianas will bring national attention not only to Guam but also the CNMI because they are part of the same chain of islands. Obama grew up in Hawaii which, just like the Marianas, consists of islands in the Pacific.

Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) said it is always nice to host a presidential visit, and it would also be better if Obama also stops over the CNMI.

Torres said if he gets invited, he would definitely to go Guam for the presidential visit.

He said he already met Obama and the first lady in mid-December in Washington, D.C.

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) announced the presidential visit on Monday.

The highest ranking U.S. official to ever set foot in the CNMI's capital of Saipan is former President George H.W. Bush, when he was still vice president to former President Ronald Reagan. Bush flew to Saipan on his way to a six-day visit to China in October 1985.

A White House transcript of statements made by Gibbs on Monday said that Obama and the first lady "will be traveling to Indonesia and Australia in the second half of March."

Obama spent his childhood in Indonesia.

"This trip is an important part of the president's continued effort to broaden and strengthen the partnerships that are necessary to advance our security and prosperity. Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country, the third largest democracy; is home to the largest Muslim population in the world; and an important partner in the G20," said Gibbs.

During his visit to Indonesia, Obama will formally launch the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, an initiative through which the United States will broaden and strengthen relations with Indonesia to tackle important regional and global issues.

In addition, this year also marks the 70th anniversary of U.S.-Australia relations.

"The president looks forward to commemorating that milestone and consulting with Prime Minister Rudd on ways that we can build on the strong relationship between our two countries and discuss issues such as global economic recovery, clean energy and climate change, nonproliferation and Afghanistan," said Gibbs.

Gibbs also said that the trip also would most likely coincide with the spring vacation of Obama's two daughters.

89 PCT

From Page 1

nation of the clearance of 2009 models, the introduction of 2010 models, and the holiday season.

Microl Corp. sold 35 new vehicles in January, a 133 percent increase from last year's only 15 units sold during the same month. It's not known yet whether the massive Toyota recalls will affect Microl's February sales. Microl is the authorized distributor of new Toyotas and Chevrolets in the CNMI.

Joeten Motors, the authorized dealer of new Nissans, Fords, Hondas and Kias, posted a 100 percent sales growth, from 10 in January 2009 to 20 in January 2010.

Triple "J" Motors also sold 13 new vehicles, an 18 percent increase from last year's 11. Triple "J" Motors is the local dealer of new Hyundais, Mitsubishis, Isuzus, Suzukis and Mazdas.

Toyota Corolla was not only the top car of choice but also the top seller among all makes and models in January with nine new units sold. Among cars, Toyota Corolla was followed by Toyota Yaris and Mazda3 with six units sold each, and Ford Fusion with three units. Dealers also sold two units each of Kia Soul and Toyota Camry, and one unit each of Hyundai Accent, Hyundai Genesis Cp, Kia Forte, Mazda MX-5, Nissan Altima, and Toyota Prius.

Among SUVs, Nissan Rogue was the top choice with eight units sold in January, followed by Toyota Highlander and Toyota RAV4 with four units sold each, and Toyota 4Runner with two units. Dealers sold one unit each of Hyundai Tucson, Mazda CX7, and Nissan Pathfinder.

Toyota Tacoma topped the sales chart among trucks with seven units sold in January. This was followed by Mazda PickUp and Nissan Frontier with two units sold each. One Ford Ranger was also sold last month.

Only one van was sold in January—a Kia Sedona.

KILILI

From Page 1

Sablan introduced one of the bills, H.R. 3511, on July 31, 2009. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to build a multipurpose visitor center in the NMI for interpretation and public education and enjoyment of the Monument. Two weeks ago, Bordallo introduced another bill, H.R. 4493, which provides for monument visitor and research services on Guam. Bordallo's bill also gives the Government of Guam a role in the management of the Monument.

"I think that it is very important to have a hearing on these two bills," said Sablan. "And I look forward to working with Chairwoman Bordallo.

"The subcommittee especially needs to hear witnesses from the Northern Marianas who negotiated the terms and conditions of the monument with the White House. They can testify what promises or understandings were given concerning facilities for visitors and concerning the management of fisheries and other resources within the monument.

"We have to be sure that those promises are fulfilled and that Congress does nothing out of line with the agreements the White House made to the people of the Northern Marianas."

President George W. Bush created the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument by Presidential Proclamation on Jan. 6, 2009.

The 95,216 square mile monument is made up of three units. Two of these, the volcanic and trench units, do not include any waters, but only submerged lands—volcanic hot spots on the ocean floor and the Marianas Trench itself.

The third, the islands unit, includes both submerged lands and the ocean waters above them. The islands unit also completely surrounds three islands—Farallon de Pajaros, Maug, and Asuncion—which belong to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The presidential proclamation prohibits commercial fishing within the islands unit, but does allow traditional indigenous fishing and recognizes the role of the CNMI government in determining what is traditional indigenous fishing.

Management plans for the monument are to be developed and implemented by U.S. departments of the Interior and Commerce in cooperation with the CNMI government. The plans will provide for recreational fishing and traditional access by indigenous persons within the Monument, and for tourism programs and other economic activities in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proclamation also establishes a five-person Advisory Council with three officials of the Commonwealth government and two federal officials to provide ongoing advice and recommendations concerning the monument. ***(PR)***

Borja is MCS Teacher of the Year

MONETH DEPOSA

Vicky San Nicolas Borja is chosen as this year's outstanding educator at Mount Carmel School.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vicky San Nicolas Borja was chosen as this year's outstanding educator at Mount Carmel School, receiving the institution's prestigious Teacher of the Year award for 2010.

Borja, who has been an educator for most of her life, was honored in yesterday's ceremony along with this year's recipient of the school's Support Staff of the Year award, Julia Villaforte.

Prior to joining Mount Carmel School in 2003, Borja was a classroom teacher at Hopwood Junior High School. This year marks her 27th year of her teaching CNMI students.

"It feels good!" she told *Saipan Tribune* after being presented the award, adding that it was her students who motivated her to participate in the competition.

This was the first time for the delighted Borja to receive the honor from Mount Carmel.

Saipan Tribune learned that Borja has been thrice selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among American's Teachers" in 2002, 2005, and 2006.

Borja, who derives a sense of accomplishment from providing learning to children, believes that being a teacher is a very noble profession.

She said teaching should be meaningful and should not just be about opening a book and reading but also about applying the lessons learned to everyday life and how to better oneself as a person.

When asked what makes a great teacher, Borja said she believes that being compassionate, accepting diversity, being enthusiastic, creative, respectful to one's learning strategies, and being a role model to the leaders of tomorrow all make for a great teacher.

"A great teacher is also someone who always wants the best for his or her students and will do anything in his/her power to help students succeed," she added.

For Borja, one of the most important issues facing education today is providing proper learning for students with learning disabilities as many schools lack the necessary ways and means to educate this specific group of students.

She said there should be collaborative involvement among the administrators, education experts, teachers, and parents for teacher improvement.

Borja said the value of education is to create well-rounded individuals. "They [students] are our future leaders and education is the key to making the world a better place for all," she added.

Besides Borja and Villaforte, MCS president Margaret Dela Cruz and Bishop Tomas A. Camacho also conferred distinguished and service awards to deserving employees during yesterday's ceremony.

The event was keynoted by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Hyatt drops complaint vs Legislature

Hyatt Regency Saipan has dropped its lawsuit against the Legislature over alleged nonpayment of food and beverage services amounting to $3,250.

Michael A. White, counsel for Hyatt, filed a notice in the Superior Court stating the hotel's dismissal of its complaint against the Legislature and its former staff, Walter Macaranas.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Legislature had already settled its obligation with the hotel and that Macaranas had nothing to do with the non-payment of services.

Hyatt filed the lawsuit in September 2009. It named the Legislature and Macaranas as defendants. At the time, Macaranas was no longer working with the Legislature.

White stated in the complaint that the Legislature and the co-defendant are jointly indebted to Hyatt for food and beverage services purchased by the defendants in the principal amount of $3,250 together with interest.

As the Legislature had already made payment, Hyatt decided to dismiss the case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Judge: Atalig's termination violated due process rights

Invitation to Classical Music
클래식의초대
You are cordially invited to a classical music concert "Invitation to Classic" by five professional musicians from Korea showcasing elegant music. The program features performances by a former resident of Saipan, Ms. Hyung-Ji Jang. She's obtained a doctorate degree from the Arizona State University after graduating the S.C.S in Saipan.
Date: February 6, 2010(Saturday)
Time: 7:30PM
Venue: Saipan Presbyterian Church
Contact: Tel.670-234-0465
Fax 670-235-5661
E-mail: koreasaipan@gmail.com
Admission: Free

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The termination of Felipe Q. Atalig as public information officer of the Department of Public Works has been found a violation of Atalig's due process rights.

At the time of his termination, Atalig's position as a DPW PIO was covered under the Civil Service Act and did not fall under one of the statutorily exempted positions, according to Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman in a ruling he issued yesterday.

Under CNMI law, Atalig was a civil service employee who had a constitutionally protected property interest in his continued employment, Wiseman said.

"His termination without cause, notice, or opportunity to be heard violated his due process rights. As such, plaintiff was entitled to a hearing prior to his termination," he said.

Wiseman granted Atalig's cross motion for summary judgment and denied the motion for summary judgment filed by DPW and the Office of Personnel Management.

"Since he was not afforded this right, plaintiff's due process rights were violated and summary judgment will be entered in his favor as to defendants' liability," the judge said.

Wiseman set a status conference for Feb. 11, 2010, at 1:30pm.

Atalig, through counsel Michael Dotts, filed the lawsuit in June 2006 against DPW, OPM, and then OPM director Mathilda A. Rosario over his alleged wrongful termination in March 2006.

According to court records, on Jan. 31, 2002, then governor Juan N. Babauta issued Directive 215 that prevented all new hires from obtaining Civil Service Act protection by placing them in Limited Term Appointments, which lasts no more than one year.

Babauta did this "due to the uncertainty of continued funding."

On Sept. 19, 2003, DPW announced an opening for a PIO. Atalig applied, was placed on an eligibility list, and was hired as a Limited Term Employee for 90 days.

Atalig began working for DPW in September 2003 until March 6, 2006.

On Nov. 25, 2005, Babauta stated that those employees who were hired on Limited Term Appointments were to be converted to full service status pursuant to Directive 245.

Atalig submitted on Dec. 13, 2005, the necessary paperwork to convert him to full service status.

On Feb. 15, 2006, OPM chief Rosario denied Atalig's application in a memo she wrote to Jose S. Demapan, the new DPW secretary. As a result, Atalig lost his job on March 6, 2006. He filed a grievance that same day but the Civil Service Commission failed to act on the grievance.

Atalig was the only one working under a Limited Term Appointment at the end of November 2005, who met the requirements of Directive 245, and who was not allowed to convert to civil service status.

Rosario claimed that the basis for her decision was due to the fact that Atalig had not submitted a college or high school diploma with his application in 2003 and that his "alleged degree" in political science was not one of the degrees specified in the announcement.

In his order issued yesterday, Wiseman said Atalig has satisfied his burden by establishing that his position as a PIO was covered under the Civil Service Act when he was initially hired to fill a position that falls under the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission.

Citing a precedent ruling, the judge said under CNMI law, civil service employees may only be terminated for cause and are entitled to notice and a hearing prior to termination.

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Health science, finance top high school students' interest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A survey commissioned by the CNMI Public School System among public high schools revealed that health science and finance are the top two areas that students want to take under the system's career technology education program.

CTE program coordinator Jessica B. Taylor disclosed during yesterday's meeting of the Saipan Rotary Club that students in four public high schools also expressed interest in taking up agriculture, food and natural resources among the numerous clusters now being offered by the program.

CTE is the former vocational education program. It was expanded by the school system from 6 to 7 program areas to the current total of 16.

In Kagman High School, majority of students were interested in health science; agriculture, food and natural resources; and law, public safety and security.

Most Marianas High School students selected finance as their top choice, followed by health care and agriculture.

In Rota High School, health science topped students' choices, followed by finance, and law and public safety.

Tinian High School students ofavor health science, business administration and management, and human services.

Taylor said the PSS CTE program offers 16 clusters on three islands: agriculture, food, and natural resources; architecture and construction; arts and communication; business, management, and administration; finance; government and public administration; health science; hospitality and tourism; human services; law, public safety, corrections, and security; manufacturing; marketing, sales, and service; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; transportation, distribution and logistics.

According to Kagman High School vice principal Eric Magofna, they look forward to offering the hospitality and tourism cluster as well as the revival of the Teacher Academy program next year.

Taylor said PSS wants to establish a partnership with the business sector and the community to better develop the program.

"With your inputs, suggestions and opinion regarding the program curriculum…it would help us to better improve our CTE program," she said.

Rotary member Alex Sablan urged PSS to help the business sector develop the essential workforce—the bookkeepers and accountants.

Member Ben Babauta also emphasized the need to re-offer maritime course, citing the potential need for this workforce in the future.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMBAWANG	025E	1/23 Sat	1/21 Thu	1/21 Thu	1/19 Tue	1/16 Sat	1/29 Fri	1/25 Mon	1/24 Sun	1/17 Sun	1/17 Sun	1/25 Mon	1/29 Fri	1/31 Sun	2/2 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	004E	1/30 Sat	1/28 Thu	1/28 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/23 Sat	2/5 Fri	2/1 Mon	1/31 Sun	1/24 Sun	1/24 Sun	2/1 Mon	2/5 Fri	2/7 Sun	2/9 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/6 Sat	2/4 Thu	2/4 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/30 Sat	2/12 Fri	2/8 Mon	2/7 Sun	1/31 Sun	1/31 Sun	2/8 Mon	2/12 Fri	2/14 Sun	2/16 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/13 Sat	2/11 Thu	2/11 Thu	2/9 Tue	2/6 Sat	2/19 Fri	2/15 Mon	2/14 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/15 Mon	2/19 Fri	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	005E	2/20 Sat	2/18 Thu	2/18 Thu	2/16 Tue	2/13 Sat	2/26 Fri	2/22 Mon	2/21 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/22 Mon	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	3/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	034E	2/27 Sat	2/25 Thu	2/25 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/20 Sat	3/5 Fri	3/1 Mon	2/28 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	3/1 Mon	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	025E	2/6 Sat	2/7 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/9 Mon	2/10 Wed	2/12 Fri	2/14 Sun	SKIP	2/19 Fri	2/20 Sat	2/25 Thu	3/16 Tue	2/28 Sun	2/24 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	004E	2/13 Sat	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	SKIP	2/17 Wed	2/19 Fri	2/21 Sun	SKIP	2/26 Fri	2/27 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/7 Sun	3/3 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/20 Sat	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue	2/24 Wed	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/5 Fri	3/6 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/14 Sun	3/10 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/27 Sat	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/3 Wed	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	SKIP	3/12 Fri	3/13 Sat	3/18 Thu	4/6 Tue	3/21 Sun	3/17 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	005E	3/6 Sat	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue	3/10 Wed	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/19 Fri	3/20 Sat	3/25 Thu	4/13 Tue	3/28 Sun	3/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	034E	3/13 Sat	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/17 Wed	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Fri	3/27 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/4 Sun	3/31 Wed

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IT&E offers free cable locator service

Telecommunications firm IT&E is reminding all contractors, homeowners, and building owners of the importance of contacting IT&E prior to any type of digging.

According to IT&E plant technical service manager Velma Palacios, the CNMI has been experiencing a large number of unnecessary cable cuts to the fiber lines that connect the islands to the world. Often, these cable cuts result in costly damage or service interruptions.

When a cut to the cable occurs, offenders are charged per P.L. 9-4, The Commonwealth Utility Damage Prevention Act of 1994. Palacios said that repairs carry a hefty price tag and deprive customers of their services.

"IT&E cables are not the only underground utilities (water, power, and sewer), and those services might also be jeopardized if they are unintentionally cut," said Palacios.

Unlike other telecommunication companies, IT&E does not charge a fee for cable location that occurs during regular business hours. For your convenience, IT&E is open from Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

For more information or to request a cable locate, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483) or see cable locate information in the 2010 CNMI Phone Book, which is available free of charge at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road. ***(IT&E)***

US Coast Guard crews search for missing man

HONOLULU—Oahu-based Coast Guard crews are searching for a missing man who was reported overboard approximately 600 miles north of American Samoa.

Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Certer watchstanders here received the call Friday at 10 a.m. from the crew of the 207-foot fishing vessel *Sea Fox*. *Sea Fox* crewmembers last saw the man Thursday at about 5:30pm and determined the man went overboard at approximately 2am Friday.

An aircrew from Air Station Barbers Point launched an HC-130 Hercules aircraft at approximately 1pm Friday and conducted a search of the last known position of the missing crewmember.

The crew aboard the *Sea Fox* is conducting their own search using a helicopter aboard the ship. It is unknown if the missing crewmember was wearing a life jacket at the time he reportedly went overboard. ***(USCG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Language experts to speak on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa, A Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Dr. Liz Rechebei and Dr. Sandy Chung, who will discuss the Chamorro dictionary revision project this Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, between 9:30am and 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Free lecture on science-based home design

Saipan-based physics professor John Hait will be conducting a free lecture on "How to build a home with a continuously comfortable built-in temperature" this Friday, Feb. 5, 2010, at the American Memorial Park. It will begin at 6pm. Hait's home design concept requires no air-conditioning, or heaters in cold areas! For more information, go to www.EinsteinCode.info. Also, learn Advanced Science the easy way with online poetry. It's fun and easy. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets COP cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point Beach in Koblerville.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the group on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, at 8am at the COP Beach parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and go east or west cleaning the beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

Chamber membership meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting today, Feb. 3, at the Palms Resort Saipan. Guest speaker will be Mike Ernest, consumer counsel for the CNMI Attorney General's Office. Ernest will talk about consumer protection laws in the CNMI, and how businesses can ensure that they remain on the right side of consumer protection law. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for public. ***(PR)***

SUPER BOWL
SPECIAL
Everyone is invited to watch the
Super Bowl XLIV
at PauPau Bar & Terrace
on Monday, February 8, 2010
Door opens at 8:30 a.m.
Breakfast buffet is available at $15.00 per person inclusive
of iced-tea, juice and coffee.
The Palms
on PauPau Beach, Saipan
Micronesia
For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 3, 1999

Legislature tries to end power project impasse

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is set to review a legislation that will support the bid of Marubeni-Sithe on the new 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan as an independent re-evaluation of all proposals gets underway within the next six weeks. In a meeting yesterday, board members agreed to discuss the proposed measure in executive session to come up with an official position when it gets through the legislative floor for deliberation. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, who also chairs the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said the bill he has initiated will assist in resolving issues that have dogged the stalled project in the last six months.

Legislature heeds call to monitor garment sector

In a quick response to a call for reforms from leading U.S. apparel firm Liz Claiborne, the CNMI Legislature is eyeing the creation of an independent monitoring group that will help put in place a code of conduct for the local garment sector and clamp down erring factories. Senate President Paul A. Manglona is set to file a bill, called CNMI Independent Garment Factories Monitoring Foundation Act of 1999, setting out the mechanism for the proposed watchdog for local garment manufacturers to safeguard their workers and ensure compliance with labor laws. Describing the measure as critical, Manglona said lawmakers will consult with various government agencies as well as the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association before tackling the proposal on the floor.

Feb. 3, 2000

EAGI poised to investigate CUC chief

Amid denials by the parties involved in the bribery allegations on the controversial Saipan power project, a Senate committee is set to investigate Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Timothy P. Villagomez to finally determine whether these claims from his former wife are valid. The Senate Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations will meet with the Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Public Auditor within the next few days in their search for answers on the claims contained in a purported affidavit from Alice Fleming Villagomez, who is now divorced from the CUC chief.

MVA earmarks $100K for Saipanda survey

After over one year of using Saipanda mascot in its advertising campaign in Japan, the Marianas Visitors Authority is set to evaluate whether the marketing plan worked out or not. The MVA board has approved a $100,000 budget for an independent firm to carry out the survey on its biggest market. In the planned marketing evaluation, MVA wants to know if the consumers have associated Saipanda with the destination. "We want to know whether we are reaching our target consumers. Most of all, we want to find out if our marketing campaign is in the right direction," said Perry Tenorio, managing director of MVA.

Feb. 3, 2003

CUC embroiled in contract mess

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may soon be sued for withdrawing from a recently signed settlement agreement with an offshore contractor involved in a consultancy project study three years ago. Authorities said the CUC, particularly CUC board chairman Francisco Q. Guerrero, had signed a settlement agreement with the contractor, Aluminates Group Philippines, last November for the payment of the remaining 50 percent of the project cost worth over $28,000. AGP, a subsidiary of the Melbourne-based Aluminates Group, a company involved in the manufacture and marketing of chemicals used in a wide range of industries including mining, pigment, metal smelting, water, and wastewater treatment, said it had completed a desalinization study for CUC three years ago, but it has yet to collect half of the agreed project cost from the agency.

Sewage overflow alarms CRMO, residents

Another local environmental agency slapped the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with a citation in connection with the frequent sewage overflow at the vicinity of the Tanapag Social Hall, which has been polluting the Saipan Lagoon. A recent overflow was so severe that the Coastal Resources Management Office described the 750-gallon "honeywagon" pumping the sewage from a ponding basin as "hardly adequate." CRMO administrator Joaquin D. Salas said this happened Wednesday last week. This prompted villagers to raise concerns over the CUC's alleged failure to address this persistent problem, Salas said. In 2002, the Division of Environmental Quality also issued similar citations against the utility firm.

16 students learn basics of writing

Dr. Kluge makes a point during the opening session of the writers' symposium. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixteen high school students from around the Commonwealth started a monthlong writers' symposium last Saturday under the direction of noted author Dr. P.F. Kluge.

The symposium is being sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities in cooperation with the Public School System.

Saturday's meeting was the first of four scheduled group meetings during which participants will receive writing assignments and critically review the work of their fellow writers. Aspiring writers from Tinian and Rota participated in Saturday's meeting via video teleconferencing.

During the meeting, Kluge told students that their most important task is to make the writing that matters to them matter to others.

He also covered key writing issues including selecting a narrative voice, establishing a sense of place, and developing plot, characters and dialog.

For their first assignment, participants were asked to select a place and describe it in a six-page essay. They are not only to describe what that place looks like, but also how it makes them feel.

Additional assignments relating to narrative voice, plot and dialog will be given in succeeding weeks. Their finished pieces will be published online by the council at the conclusion of the symposium.

Kluge is writer-in-residence at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He has authored a number of critically acclaimed books including *Edge of Paradise*, *Gone Tomorrow*, and *Eddie and the Cruisers*.

Kluge is also facilitating an ongoing book discussion series covering four classic American novels under Council sponsorship.

This symposium, funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a part of the council's continuing efforts to promote literacy. It also supports the Public School System's recently established writing excellence initiative. ***(PR)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
San Vicente School
Community Based Management, Inc.
RFP- 002

The San Vicente School Community Based Management, Inc., Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), is soliciting competitive Proposals from qualified A/E firms for the design and construction management of the Objective Work Plan for the design, installation and construction management for the tasks listed below. Through this Request for Proposals the governing board of the San Vicente School Community Based Management Inc., will select one A/E firm for performing the tasks listed below. The selected team (firm) must present have the capability to design the main elements of the project and follow through with the total construction of the project. The selected firm must demonstrate the capability to design the main elements of the Plan, present estimated costs, and follow through with the total construction management of the project to the point of turn over a working system. The Proposal Plan shall include the following tasks:

A. Provide site inspection and a load study prior to providing a schematic design for the installation of a solar power system that will meet the power demands of the aquaculture science center and office. These facilities are located on the grounds of the San Vicente Elementary School, San Vicente, Saipan, MP.
B. The scope of work lists several requirements that need to be met with the proposed solar system design. These include net metering, a possible back-up generator, and power monitoring for educational purposes. A time frame for work completion is also included.
C. The Proposal shall be all inclusive including meeting the requirements of the various permitting agencies such as the CUC, DPW, DEQ, and Zoning.
D. Inspect and renovate as necessary the existing solar panels and add additional panels as necessary to meet the on site power requirements for the new system. Prepare the plans and specifications and provide certification by a licensed engineer/architect.
E. The project will be a design-build project and each step in the process will require review and approval by the Project Manager. Clear milestones in the project progress shall be addressed in the Proposal.
F. During construction provide inspection, any design modifications and oversee the work as necessary to provide for a complete working photovoltaic system. An additive project may be the provision for a wind generation system at a separate location.
G. Selection of the most qualified, responsible and responsive firm shall be based on the following critical criteria.

1. Qualifications and resumes for the personnel to be assigned to the project 50%
2. Cost to provide the required services 25%
3. Prior experience with this type of project and in-house ability to prepare the design 15%
4. The team's present work load and availability, including references with similar projects 10%

The Proposer must demonstrate in their Proposal successful experience on similar A/E construction management work within the CNMI.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference and site inspection will be held for this project on Monday, February 8th, 2010 at 10:00 am at the Aquaculture science center on the SVES campus. All questions related to the proposed project must be submitted in writing to the Project Manager, Mr. Valrick Welch, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, February 15th, 2010 by sending written inquiries to email vawelch@gmail.com. Questions and responses will be provided to each respondent via email.

Copies of the scope of work and drawings can be picked-up at Quick Print located on middle road, Garapan.

Based on the evaluation of the critical elements A. through G.. presented above, the Evaluation Team will notify the top three (3) firms and request a final competitive cost from the top team. Discussions will include in-depth evaluation of the team's technical expertise, availability to perform the work in a timely manner, available personnel, in-house capability, performance on similar contracts, including the timeliness of the firm in meeting contract deadlines, and the ability to prepare the design on AutoCAD latest version with a copy of the complete design diskettes for the school archives. In the event a mutually beneficial contract arrangement cannot be met within 30 days the Project Manager will proceed to negotiate with the firm having the second highest competitive ranking, and so on. Five (5) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the San Vicente Elementary School secretary in the main office and must be labeled as follows:

Valrick A. Welch, Project Manager
San Vicente School Community Based Management, Inc.
Science Center alternative power RFP-002

no later than 3:00 PM, local CNMI time, on Friday, February 19, 2010. The San Vicente School reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the San Vicente School Community Based Management.

/s/ Juan Sablan
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

Recruitment For Zoning Administrator

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office, which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law with assistance of legal counsel, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed about 6000 inquiries and zoning permits. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field such as engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, public administration and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222).

Preferred Competencies: Knowledge of zoning and land use control and planning theory and practice including preparation, administration and enforcement. Knowledge of records management techniques including permit record systems, databases and Geographic Information Systems. Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Internet browsers. Skill in researching printed and Internet documents and ability to quickly compile and analyze information and prepare concise reports. Ability to supervise and motivate others and to cooperatively work in a team setting. Ability to work effectively with Zoning Board members; political, business and community leaders; and with the general public in cross-cultural settings with people with English as a second language. Previous experience administering zoning laws, regulations or ordinances. Ability to balance competing work demands and set priorities. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain. Work experience in Micronesia, preferably the Northern Mariana Islands, and have working knowledge about laws, government regulations and administrative procedures is an advantage.

The maximum annual salary is $50,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Herminia Fusco, Chair, Commonwealth Zoning Board and must be received at the Zoning Office by February 19, 2010. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, at least three most recent (from 2008 to 2009) writing samples (personally authored), a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume and other documents as listed on the employment application checklist and as requested. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-10-013

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting proposals from qualified engineering firms for the provision of an AutoCad Operator in the office of Water-Wastewater Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposal shall address the AutoCad Operator's ability to perform the following essential elements.

1. The operator must provide and use his own AutoCad software of the latest version, and install at CUC provided computer. He must also be knowledgeable and efficient of program extension like adobeacrobat, etc.
2. The operator must be versatile from the lowest release software version to the latest version of AutoCad.
3. Prepare construction plan, drawings, shop drawings from rough schematic sketches with minimum supervision.
4. Perform as-built drawings. Create a computerized file of the existing as-built drawings.
5. Perform site inspections and investigations for development of a concise plan and drawings.
6. Read and interpret plans.
7. Perform associated works as necessary.

Proposals shall be evaluated and ranked based on technical criteria listed below and selection made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations.

1. Proficiency of the AutoCad Operator (30%)
2. Experience and familiarity in water-wastewater utilities (45%)
3. Availability (25%)

The Scope-of-Work may be pick-ed up at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-10-013, AutoCad Operator for Water-Wastewater Division, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Tuesday, February 09, 2010 at 10 AM** local time (CST). Late submissionsand conditional bids will not be considered.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Robert Lorenz, Water-Wastewater Deputy Director at (670) 235-7025 Ext. 147 and Manny B. Sablan. Purchasing Officer at (670) 235-7025 Ext. 134.

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR	/s/ ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 28

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Okinawa's air base battle

Okinawa. Site of the largest U.S. amphibious assault in the Pacific and the final major battle of World War II. Last territory to be handed back to Japanese control—in 1972. And now, the first point of friction between the Obama administration and the 4-month-old government of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama.

As host to nearly three-quarters of the U.S. troops stationed in Japan, Okinawa residents have long felt that they shoulder more than their fair share. So it's not surprising that the future of a U.S. Marine base has become a contentious issue. But if it is handled properly, it shouldn't threaten the strategic relationship between the United States and Japan.

Since 1960, a treaty has granted U.S. armed forces use of Japanese land and facilities in return for protecting the country and responding in the event it is attacked. Understanding that keeping troops in highly populated areas can raise tensions, the United States agreed in 1996 to reduce its military footprint in Okinawa. But it took another decade to forge a deal to transfer 8,000 troops to Guam and move the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma air base from the crowded city of Ginowan to tiny Nago, on the southern end of the island.

The Pentagon is understandably frustrated. The 2006 agreement still had not been implemented in September, when voters booted out the party that had ruled Japan for half a century and elected Hatoyama's Democratic Party of Japan, which, along with coalition members, promised to reconsider the deal. This week, Nago elected a new mayor who is opposed to the base, with its noisy helicopters and airstrip to be built on landfill in pristine waters. Hatoyama has pledged to reexamine all options and issue a decision in May.

Some politicians will try to place the base controversy in the context of the left-leaning Hatoyama's desire to improve relations with China and the rest of Asia—which they believe is leading to weakened relations with the U.S. That is a mistaken view, as the base issue was festering long before even Hatoyama's predecessor began reaching out to Beijing. When it comes to China, Japan is only doing what the U.S. is doing: engaging with a major economic partner while keeping an eye on its military capabilities.

The way to protect the U.S.-Japan relationship is to recognize that in Japan, as elsewhere, all politics is local. U.S. Ambassador to Japan John V. Roos took a step in that direction with a speech Friday advocating for the Nago deal, but pledging to make the base environmentally and economically friendly. U.S. officials must continue to press the case with the Japanese people. Otherwise, come up with a Plan B.

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YES, WE ARE STANDING UP TO CENSORSHIP IN CHINA... AND WE'RE PROUD OF IT.
OH, AND HOW QUICKLY CAN YOU FILE YOUR STORY SO WE CAN GIVE IT AWAY FOR FREE?
PRESS
Google
KOERNER
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Why protect victims?

Editor's Note: The following was submitted by the Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition for publication.

In December of 2008, President Bush signed into law the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. This far-reaching legislation addresses many aspects of human trafficking, including aid programs to foreign governments to help stop trafficking at its source, benefits for victims, and immigration issues. The Act also includes several important improvements to the Federal anti-trafficking laws.

For example, a new crime called "fraud in labor contracting" was added to the tools that prosecutors can use to shut down traffickers. This new statute makes it a crime to recruit workers from foreign countries by making false statements or fraudulent representations. For the first time, the all-too-familiar scenario of a foreign worker paying thousands of dollars for a non-existent job in Saipan will be prosecuted federally.

Here on Saipan, the CNMI Department of Public Safety and the U.S. Department of Justice have joined forces as partners in the Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition to combat trafficking. Recognizing that "the CNMI's unique characteristics make it a high risk place for the exploitation of human subjects," DPS applied for a $450,000 grant from DOJ to create the HT IC. Its major goals are: to increase identification of trafficking cases and rescue of trafficking victims; to assist trafficking victims with applications for T-visas and other benefits; to improve the delivery of services to trafficking victims by developing training for law enforcement officers and social workers; and to promote public awareness about trafficking. A similar amount was awarded to Karidat to provide services for trafficking victims. Other HTIC participants include Micronesia Legal Services, the Office of the Attorney General, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As you can see, there is a lot of emphasis on providing assistance and benefits to trafficking victims. Even the title of the statute, the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act," stresses the importance of focusing on the victims of this terrible crime. But that begs the question: Why protect victims? Isn't the primary job of law enforcement to lock up the bad guys?

Some law enforcement officers used to ask these same questions about domestic violence cases. But it soon became apparent that successful investigation and prosecution of domestic violence crimes required officers to approach those cases differently from other criminal investigations. Without understanding the dynamics of the relationship between an abuser and his victim, for example, an investigator may miss important details that need to be explained, so a jury can understand what the victim was going through. In much the same way, understanding the mind-set of a trafficking victim makes it easier for an investigator to know what questions to ask in order to obtain the evidence we need to prosecute the offenders.

Trafficking victims are conditioned by their traffickers to distrust outsiders, especially the police. Those who have been engaged in prostitution or other illicit activities will avoid doing anything that might tip off the police to what they are engaged in. Foreign victims are generally ignorant of their legal rights, since they are unfamiliar with U.S. and CNMI laws. Their traffickers emphasize their close ties with the police and immigration officials, and threaten them with deportation if they complain. They may have been beaten or threatened, or told stories of unfortunate past victims who were gotten rid of for crossing the boss. They may also fear for the safety of their families, because of lax enforcement and close ties between the traffickers and corrupt government officials in their home country.

The U.S. Congress was aware of these challenges when they adopted the TVPA, as was the CNMI Legislature when it passed our local Anti-Trafficking Act in 2005 (and by the way, the CNMI is the envy of many states and local jurisdictions that do not have their own local anti-trafficking law; even Guam only recently enacted its own local law). You cannot expect a victim in a foreign country, far from her home and family, unfamiliar with its laws and institutions, totally dependent upon her traffickers for food and shelter, constantly in fear of being arrested or deported, to understand that she has been "rescued" from her traffickers when the police arrive. It is unrealistic to expect that she will immediately cooperate in a trafficking investigation. It is wishful thinking to hope that she will even be able to focus her attention on the questions she is being asked without knowing where she will sleep that night, or whether she will be prosecuted or deported, or whether her family is in danger.

Clearly, what law enforcement needs to do, if it wants cooperation, evidence, and credible testimony from a victim, is to make the victim feel safe and secure. Social service agencies and charitable organizations like Karidat are extremely valuable in providing such support. Here in the Northern Marianas, the Guma Esperansa provides food and shelter for victims of severe forms of trafficking. They can help to address her medical needs, and can provide English and GED classes, and employment services. They will also discuss any available immigration benefits for the victim and members of her immediate family, since in many cases, they will be unable to return to their home country after testifying against the traffickers. Think of it as a witness protection program for trafficking victims.

There are some who have suggested that providing these benefits gives victims an incentive to "make things up." Accusations such as these are nothing new. The credibility of victims is always an issue when the victim knows her perpetrator. In domestic violence cases, for example, it is not uncommon for an abuser to claim the victim is "making it up" to get sympathy or attention, or to get back at the abuser for his infidelity or other transgressions.

Police and prosecutors have learned how to successfully rebut such allegations in domestic violence cases by corroborating victims' statements with other evidence, documenting the prior history of abuse, and by providing for the safety and security of the victim and her children at the outset of the investigation. It makes sense to do that in domestic violence cases, and it makes sense to do it in human trafficking cases.

It is also the right thing to do. It's right for the victim because restoring a person who helps us smash a human trafficking ring to self-sufficiency and independence–turning a "victim" into a "survivor"–is just as important as punishing the bad guys. It's right for our community, our Commonwealth, and our nation, because it's in our best interest to have families united, productive and healthy. For us HTIC members, it's what puts the "just" in "justice."

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Beyond the leaf

'There's just something about Saipan!'

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

"If held close enough to the eye,
a single leaf can block your view
of the entire forest."

That's a paraphrase of a quote I heard recently. It means, in other words: Don't allow the apparent magnitude of what is transpiring right before your eyes to discourage you, paralyze you, stall your plans, or cloud your vision of a bigger picture that exists just beyond it. For you see, as serious as recent local news items might appear, despite whatever scandals abound and how huge they seem relative to life here on Saipan, things will only be turned around by those who can see and plan for an alternate future by staying focused on the bigger picture.

And yes, there is a bigger picture. Things are being organized. People are being influenced. News is being spread. Opportunities are being created. Regardless of what is being publicized in the news, the fact is, as we say in Jamaica, "big tings a gwan!" (Big things are going on). You simply have to know where to look. Today, therefore, I'd like to share a few encouraging thoughts to show some of what I see from my vantage point, and to get you looking beyond the leaf.

The following are from actual emails I've received over the past few weeks—from different people who have expressed their opinions that "there's just something about Saipan!" If you have any information or suggestions for any of these individuals, please email them at walt@saipanliving.com

There are people who've lived here who want to reconnect…

"I lived on Saipan as an Army brat in 1946, and loved it! I'm trying to find out more about the place we lived—the army commanding officers quarters atop a hill. Trying to get it located on map of Saipan, and also find out whether it was built by the Army or was a pre-existing structure. Can you help me? If not, who can? Thanks!" (To help this woman, please see a photo of the view from her Saipan house at www.welovesaipan.com)

…or return:

"How's everything on Saipan? We have a guy working on my ship from Saipan. Being in the states sucked women-wise, but I made up for lost time in Spain so far. After [this assignment], I plan to move back to Saipan."

There are people who are just now discovering Saipan, who are fascinated by it, and excited about coming here and offering their passion and expertise:

"I personally would like to find others who are interested in areas of aquaculture or alternative energies and related areas. I can bring a little knowledge, management experience, minimal investment funding and a great deal of enthusiasm to the table. This sort of introductory information as a post in a focused forum would hopefully generate interest from others who've located your Web sites and are seeking similar support and assistance..."

There are people who visit as tourists for the first time who are captivated relative to their personal experience

"...I found that what really impressed me [about Saipan] are the following:

1. The color of the water near Managaha island and Memorial Park, and in other locations around the island. It is the color of bright jade. Just loving it!

2. How safe it feels. During the days that I did the homestay, the entrance was never locked. I used to do that in California, so it was not surprising to me, but it would be shocking to a person who has only lived in the urban areas of most cities, where a steel door entrance is a must to fend against break-ins.

3. Beautiful, but uncrowded beaches. Better yet, beaches that are all public! It is definitely touching to a person who has gotten used to seeing signs saying "private property, do not trespass" in many scenery spots in other parts of the US.

There are people who have recently moved here to live:

"As to what brings me here: I have been looking for a place that would allow me to live in harmony with nature, and Saipan seems to offer that. What I've seen of the island life thus far definitely makes me happy with my choice. What made you choose Saipan over other places? What are your favorite aspects of living in Saipan?"

There are people who are considering doing business here…

"I enjoyed your recent article about doing business, and the subsequent reply, and answer. We have been trying to find exact info on possibly moving our corporate operations to Saipan… With the decline of the garment industry, who knows what opportunity might surface!"

studying here…

"My company is located in Shanghai, China, and I am considering sending my staff to go to study English in Saipan for a 3 to 6 months program…"

partying and relaxing here…

"[Our mutual friend] told me that you lived in Saipan, and ever since then, I have had a growing curiosity about it. I LOVE to travel! I have been to every continent, with the exception of Antarctica. I am thinking of planning to go to Micronesia sometime in mid-May to early June. Is it raining by then? What's the difference in nightlife in Guam vs Saipan? I love the partying and all that, but I'm also coming with my mother who loves beautiful resorts and beaches; so I'm looking to get the best of both worlds…"

The Point:

I could go on sharing dozens of correspondence from people in the US, China, Russia, Australia, UK, India, etc. for whom Saipan is an attractive place to be. So what's my point? My point is simply that reality is a very subjective thing. However large the leaf of your daily life looms in your own vision, there are alternate realities being lived out right here on island by people whom you pass on the street, or who shopping in the next aisle over from you in the supermarket.

I'll share another quote from the "Notes from the Universe" newsletter to remind you something about life:

Life, [my friend], is not what you see, but what you've projected.
It's not what you've felt, but what you've decided.
It's not what you've experienced, but how you've remembered it.
It's not what you've forged, but what you've allowed.
And it's not who's appeared, but who you've summoned.

Especially as an potential entrepreneur ("Saipanpreneur") seeking to create a passion-centered business here in paradise, it is absolutely imperative that your passion, your vision and your goals not be contaminated or diluted by media reporting about this little island. There's an attraction, and a uniqueness, and something about Saipan that may only be experienced by those of us who live and work here, that can never be captured (but fortunately, too, can never be lessened) by the spin of the evening news or derogatory websites.

And you can have the life you've projected, the life you've decided, the life you've allowed, with the people you've summoned to create the memories you wish to have, even here on Saipan! Just look beyond the leaf!

■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of Web sites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan)*

Letter to the Editor

Mr. Scrooge: The great storyteller

This is in response to Mr. Lee Anderson's article in the *Saipan Tribune* on Jan. 28, 2010, titled, "Massage-Gate? Bah, humbug." Mr. Scrooge, or rather Mr. Anderson, you are a great storyteller by giving the readers the smoke and mirrors routine on the governor's request with a federal detainee. You use words such as "…butchering table, excruciating torment, life-saving therapy, and crippling body or even death…" that make it seem as if the governor is near death. To this day, he is still walking and talking, right? Spinal stenosis, or lumbar spinal stenosis, can be treated in several ways, which include drugs and medication, physical therapy (offered special clinics), exercise, ultrasound, TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation), in some cases acupuncture, and yes, in passive treatments such as massages. In this case, it is called deep tissue massage. However, deep tissue massage can be applied by many of the therapeutic or massage establishments found throughout Saipan. My point is, the governor could have chosen a number of establishments on island to seek remedy and instead requested for a federal detainee. Your reason for relief for the governor is understandable, but to defend his request for the release of a detainee is unjustifiable at the very least! If I had an aunt who is the greatest herbal healer in the world but was caught selling crack to kids and is being detained, would you allow her to be released to relieve your pain if you were governor?

And as for "breach of national security," sir, you have little or no idea of what terrorist activities are out there. You defend Ms. Cheng just because you may think that she is "itching" for a U.S. green card? Did you know that there are terrorists based in Xinjiang, China, known as the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, Mr. Anderson? They are considered high profile activists since the 1990s and are linked to the Taliban and are recruiting Chinese nationals. I suggest you look it up! This is why the U.S. immigration and border patrols are there, to see that all non-U.S. citizens have no ties to such radical activities. While you mock all those who believe in safety for all, I say do what is necessary to keep our borders free from terrorism, and this includes keeping Ms. Chen incarcerated until authorized by the feds to be released. As for the Correctional director, Mrs. Aldan, I feel sorry for her that she's being used as the scapegoat for this whole incident. The governor, as captain of our ship, must take full responsibility of any adverse actions, especially from ones that he has benefited from. Mrs. Aldan is more like the lieutenant who is put at the wheel while the captain jumps ship before sinking.

Lastly, please spare us your divine theories on how former representative Heinz Hofschneider and his band of merry men are planning a coup de'etat or conspiracy to oust Governor Fitial. I told myself that whoever becomes governor, I pray that he or she will lead us into a brighter future; and this includes lawful, intelligent, and ethical acts. However, prayers for good government unfortunately changed when Ms. Chen was illegally summoned to the governor's residence for a massage. Heinz is already out of the picture. Will he become the new governor if Governor Fitial is removed? I don't think so, Mr. Anderson! And while you call them cynics in your story, ironically you yourself are a cynic…a cynic for good government ethics!

Steven Pangelinan
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼75°

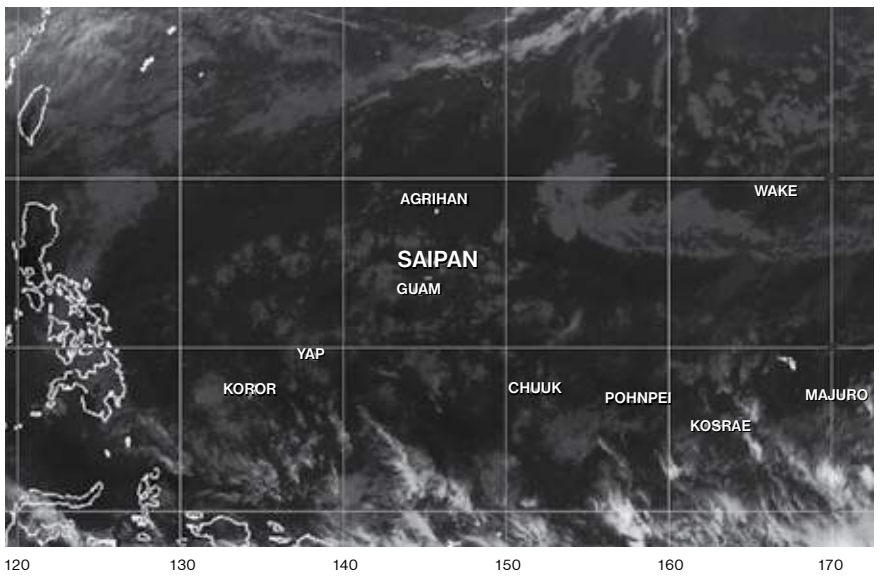
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼74
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲28	▼10
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼66
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲74	▼65
London	Showers	▲41	▼32
Los Angeles	Showers	▲62	▼48
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼66
New York	Cloudy	▲39	▼27
Osaka	Cloudy	▲40	▼30
Paris	Rain	▲46	▼40
Pusan	Cloudy	▲37	▼16
Rome	Cloudy	▲48	▼45
Salem	Showers	▲48	▼36
San Francisco	Showers	▲56	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲25	▼12
Tokyo	Showers	▲42	▼30
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼28

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line in the northwest corner of the discussion area runs from northeast of 25N142E to beyond 21N130E. Scattered showers are found within 100 miles northwest of the boundary. A shear line enters the discussion area at 18N180 and extends west-southwestward to south of Wake Island at 15N158E then curves northwestward to end east of the Northern Marianas at 20N152E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 180 miles north of this feature. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from EQ160E near Tarawa Atoll near 3N172E to beyond 180 at 1N. Low-level convergence along the near-equatorial trough is enhanced by upper-level divergence causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Tarawa Atoll between the equator and 2N from 169E to 172E. A surface trough runs from the near equatorial trough at 2N180 to 5N172. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east and southeast of Majuro within 50 miles of a line from 2N180 to 4N178E to 6N174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
5:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:16 PM	9:30 AM
Thursday	11:13 PM	10:13 AM
Friday		10:58 AM
Saturday	12:09 AM	11:44 AM
Sunday	1:05 AM	12:33 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

CUC sets repair work in Dandan and Kagman

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Division has scheduled a series of systems maintenance in the Dandan and Kagman Homestead areas throughout the month of February.

The objective is to replace many defective pole hardware such as pole top pins and insulators in these areas. The projects will commence at 7:30am through 4:30pm and would result in power outages in the affected areas.

The deteriorated pins are of steel composite and were installed 10 years ago and have now exceeded their life span. Because of their age and extensive exposure to the elements they require replacement to reinforce the circuit. Furthermore, due to the consistent ocean salt spray in these areas, the new replacement pins have fiberglass shafts and are expected to be more dependable under the conditions.

PROJECT DATES AND LOCATIONS:

DATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Feb. 6	Dandan Homestead	90 PTP
Feb. 13	Dandan Homestead	100 PTP
Feb. 21	Kagman Homestead	90 PTP
Feb. 27	Kagman Homestead/ABS replacement (Kagman Mobil)	60 PTP/1ABS

In addition, the replacement of one air break switch will also be incorporated to the projects. The replacement of this isolating device will provide the field crews the ability to minimize the number of customers inconvenienced by future power interruptions when necessary repairs are performed on the grid.

For Feb. 6, the power interruptions will be limited to certain laterals only in the Dandan Homestead. The line crew will be working in many areas throughout the day and will only interrupt power to a certain lateral to perform the necessary repairs then re-energize immediately after completion.

CUC said the power interruptions are required for the safety of the linemen as they perform their work.

"CUC apologizes for any inconvenience the power interruptions may impose on the community and their consumers and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions," said the agency in a statement. ***(PR)***

Applications for 2010 Businesswoman of the Year Scholarships now open

First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* are inviting students to apply for the 2010 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year scholarships for the Fall or Spring 2010 Semesters.

The program provides student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Marianas: University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

This year, besides university students, graduating seniors from Guam's and the CNMI's high schools who are enrolling in the islands' tertiary institutions, are invited to apply as well. Application forms will be made available to all high school senior counselors/principals' offices and will be available at the financial aid offices of all three tertiary institutions, at the First Hawaiian Bank branches and the Glimpses of Guam office. Deadline for completed applications is July 31.

The scholarships are intended to "promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers," and are open to both full-time and part-time students. The scholarships will be awarded based on merit, eligibility, a written essay, and financial need. Applicants should have a high school or college cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

"We are delighted to be able to open the Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship Program to even more students in the Marianas, including graduating high school seniors who could be prospective scholarship awardees, thanks to the generous support from the business community," said Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and region manager for Guam and the CNMI for First Hawaiian Bank.

Maureen N. Maratita, publisher of *Guam Business*, said, "This scholarship program is designed to be unique in many ways, and also has the support of community organizations such as the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, the Guam Women's Club, the Korean Women's Association on Guam and Soroptimist International of the Marianas."

Funds for the scholarships will be raised through the 2010 Businesswoman of the Year gala at the Hyatt Regency Guam on April 24. The 2010 Businesswoman of the Year winner will be announced at the event. The 2009 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient was Lorraine S. Okada, executive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP and president and owner of Managing Consulting Services. Past recipients include Katherine Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board for Pay-Less Markets Inc., 2006; Christine Won Pat Baleto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors, 2007; Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc, 2008. ***(PR)***

TOURISM PROMOTIONS MVA

John Holman, director of the Pacific Islands U.S. Commercial Service, speaks on exporting and international tourism promotions at a workshop sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority on Jan. 15, 2009. The event, held at Hyatt Regency Saipan, was co-sponsored by PATA Micronesia, Continental Airlines, and the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center.

OIA seeks $457.7M for assistance to insular areas in FY 2011 budget plan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President Obama has proposed a budget of $457.7 million for the Office of Insular Affairs in fiscal year 2011. The current appropriations request includes $59.3 million in discretionary funding and $27.7 million in mandatory funding. In addition, $370.8 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations is estimated for FY 2011 for fiscal payments and payments under the Compacts of Free Association.

"The Office will pursue strategies that foster economic development, lead to the adoption of renewable energy technologies, promote sound financial management in the insular governments, and improve the quality of life for islanders while respecting and preserving their native cultures," said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta.

Babauta

The $59.3 million slated for discretionary programs under the FY 2011 budget request will address a variety of technical assistance and facilities maintenance programs in the U.S.-affiliated islands communities. Discretionary funding will also support efforts to control the invasive brown tree snake in Guam; assist coral reef conservation initiatives; support water and wastewater projects; help insular governments improve their management control; and support the operations of the American Samoa government.

Permanent appropriations for FY 2011 include $146.0 million in payments to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands and $224.8 million in Compact of Free Association payments to the Freely Associated States. Guam is slated to receive $39 million in taxes collected in the territory via the IRS code that are transferred to the Government of Guam. The U.S. Virgin Islands is scheduled to receive $107.0 million for federal taxes collected on distilled spirits in the territory that are transferred to the local government.

Permanent appropriation for the Freely Associated States, which is mandated under the Compacts of Free Association, includes $67.3 million for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and $105.8 million for the Federated States of Micronesia. The 2011 budget also contains a placeholder in recognition of the ongoing review of the relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of Palau.

New for 2011, OIA is requesting $5 million for the Empowering Insular Communities program. This program is designed to 1.) Strengthen the foundations for economic development in the islands by addressing challenges preventing reliable delivery of critical services needed to attract investment; and 2.) Pursue economic development initiatives that encourage private sector investment in the insular areas. In FY 2011, program funds may be used to address two critical public service delivery issues, upgrading civilian infrastructure on Guam in preparation for the military relocation and the creation and implementation of comprehensive renewable energy strategies in the insular areas. ***(OIA)***

New Philippine labor attaché on Saipan

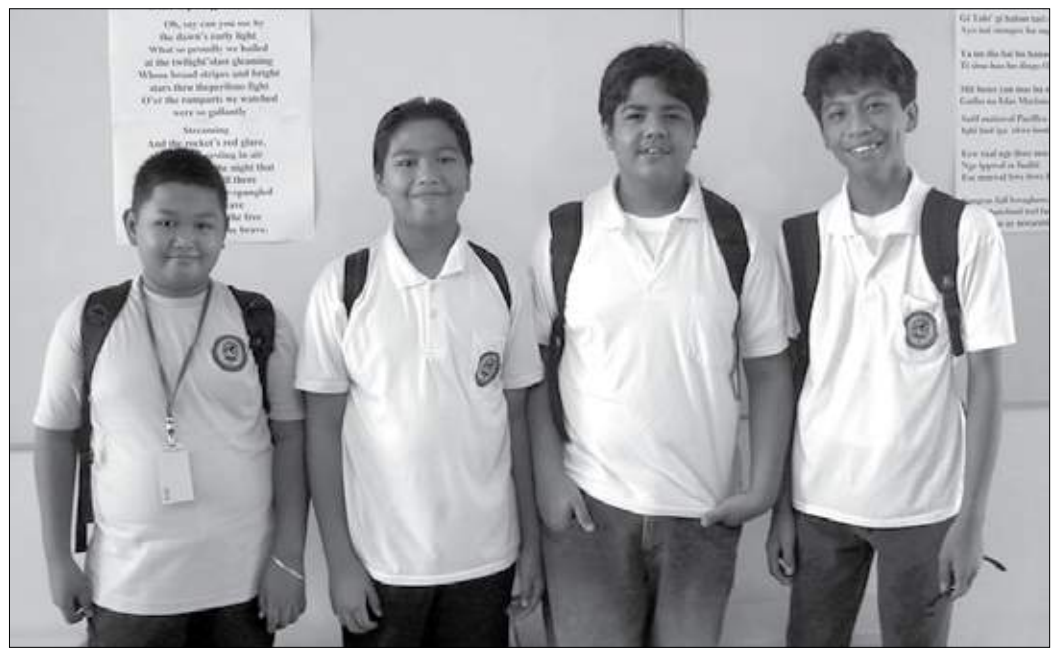
MANILA, Philippines (INQUIRER.net)—The Philippine consulate general in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands has a new labor representative, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Carmelina Velasquez, who arrived in her new assignment on Jan. 26, 2010, replaced Joan Lourdes Lavilla, who finished her four-year tour of duty.

Velasquez was the Director IV of Funds and Investment Management Office of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration before her assignment in Saipan. She was also labor attaché to Brunei Darussalam from June 2003 to March 2005.

Velasquez participated in the Regional Policy Dialogue on Harnessing the Development Potentials of Remittances in Italy on May 9, 2009. She also participated in the Marketing Mission in Canada on August 2008.

Born on Nov. 11, 1952 at Baliuag, Bulacan, Velasquez is married to Danilo Velasquez and blessed with three children. She obtained her sociology degree from the University of Sto. Tomas, as well as master's degree in public administration from the Development Academy of the Philippines.



FORENSIC MASTERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan American Education Foundation School's National Junior Forensic League winners pose for a group shot after the competition held last Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010, at the San Vicente Elementary School. From left to right, John Joshua Valiente (4th place, Humorous Interpretation and 3rd place, Duo Interpretation), Husky V. Cucal (3rd place, Poetry Master and 3rd place, Duo Interpretation), Pavan Hemlani and Young Arvi Cucal (5th place, Duo Interpretation).

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,620.70
Up 75.90
(1.67%)

HONG KONG
20,349.81
Up 106.06
(0.52%)

JAKARTA
2,600.64
Up 13.10
(0.51%)

TOKYO
10,362.03
Up 157.01
(1.54%)

K. LUMPUR
1,264.21
Up 5.05
(0.40%)

MANILA
2,864.18
Down 19.03
(-0.66%)

SINGAPORE
2,740.66
Up 4.49
(0.16%)

SEOUL
1,611.40
Up 4.96
(0.31%)

BANGKOK
696.03
Down 1.58
(-0.23%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,185.53
118.20

NASDAQ
2,171.20
23.85

S&P
1,089.18
15.31

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1334
British Pound	0.6275
Canadian Dollar	1.0633
Chinese Renminbi	6.8274
Euro	0.7197
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7683
Indian Rupee	46.2350
Indonesian Rupiah	9,375.0000
Japanese Yen	90.7600
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4150
New Zealand Dollar	1.4157
Philippine Peso	46.5210
Singapore Dollar	1.4116
South Korean Won	1,160.2250
Swiss Franc	1.0593
Taiwan Dollar	32.0390
Thailand Baht	33.1450

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

FHB announces 8 SVP promotions

First Hawaiian Bank

HONOLULU, Hawaii—First Hawaiian Bank chairman and chief executive officer Don Horner announced yesterday the promotion of the following eight bank officers to senior vice president:

■ Rachel A. Hanlon to senior vice president and team leader, Private Banking Division from vice president and manager, Private Banking Division;

■ Brent E. Helgeson to senior vice president and division manager, Dealer Division from senior vice president, Dealer Division;

■ Shigeo Hone to senior vice president, Japan Business Development from vice president and manager, Japan Business Development;

■ Vernon Y. Nakamura to senior vice president and area manager, Kalihi Branch from vice president and branch manager, Kalihi Branch;

■ Michael T. Nishida to senior vice president, PC & Network Services from vice president PC & Network Services Department;

■ Lois M. Tojio to senior vice president and area manager, Aina Haina Branch from vice president and area manager, Aina Haina Branch;

■ Edward G. Untalan to senior vice president and banking center manager, Maite Banking Center from vice president and manger, Maite Banking Center on Guam; and

■ Wesley K. K. Young to senior vice president, Branch Residential Loans from vice president, Branch Residential Loans

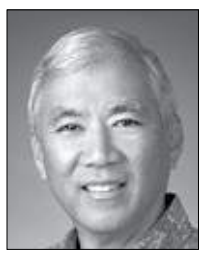
Hanlon has over 20 years of banking experience and joined First Hawaiian in 1989 as a management trainee. As team leader and a member of the Private Banking Division, she is responsible for providing wealth planning, financial needs assessment and risk management for high net worth individuals. She has a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of San Diego, an MBA from Chaminade University, and is a graduate of the American Bankers Association Trust School and Graduate School at Emory University in Atlanta.

Helgeson succeeds Mark H. Felmet who recently retired and will manage the operations for bank's Dealer Division. He began his banking career in 1990 as a management traineeand has risen through the ranks at the bank's Dealer Division. He is a graduate ofWaimea High School and received his bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Hawaii.

Hanlon

Helgeson

Hone


Nakamura

Nishida

Tojio

Untalan

Young

Hone, who joined First Hawaiian in 2005 as vice president and manager, Japan Business Development, coordinates the bank's business development programs and efforts for the Japan market in both retail and wholesale banking. He is a graduate of Utsunomiya High School and has a bachelor's degree in Law from Hitotsubashi University and an MBA from Michigan State University.

Nakamura has over 30 years of banking experience and started his career at First Hawaiian in 1978 as a management trainee. He will be responsible for the oversight of Kalihi, King-Liliha, Liliha and Chinatown Branches. He graduated from Iolani School, has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii and is a graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School in Seattle.

Nishida joined First Hawaiian in 1988 as a programmer in the Electronic Data Processing Department. He is responsible for the installation and support of computers and data communication networks at the bank. He is a graduate of Aiea High School, has a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems and Management from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is a graduate of Bank Administrative Institute in Nashville.

Tojio has over 35 years of banking experience and began her career at First Hawaiian in 1978 as a management trainee. She is responsible for overseeing operations at the Aina Haina and Hawaii Kai Branches. She is a graduate of McKinley High School.

Untalan has over 22 years of banking and finance experience and joined First Hawaiian in 2004 as an assistant vice president and team leader, Maite Banking Center. He is responsible for overseeing the daily operations in the Maite Banking Center and serves in the capacity of senior lender under the regional manager. He is a graduate of Father Duenas Memorial High School in Guam and has a bachelor's and an MBA degree from Manhattan College in New York. He also is a graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School in Seattle.

Young joined First Hawaiian in 1973 as a management trainee. He is responsible for managing the residential loan originations of the Branch Residential Loan Department, Mortgage Banking Department and Wholesale Loan Department for Hawaii, Guam and Saipan. He is a graduate of St. Louis High School and has a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Hawaii.

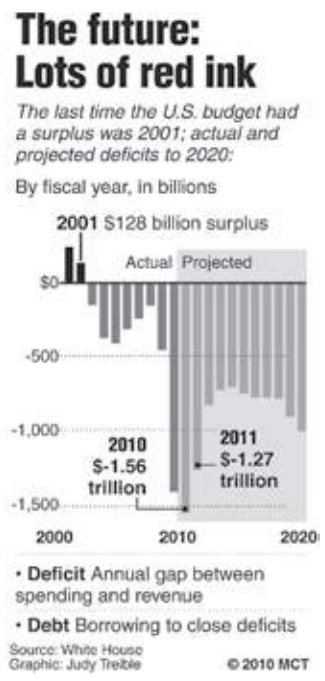
First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with assets of $13.7 billion was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. It is a subsidiary of BancWest Corporation (www.bancwestcorp.com), a financial holding company. ***(PR)***

Obama budget: Record spending, record deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Spelling out painful priorities, President Barack Obama urged Congress on Monday to quickly approve a huge new shot of spending for recession relief and job creation, part of a record $3.8 trillion budget that would boost the deficit beyond any in the nation's history while only slowly beginning to put Americans back to work.

If Congress goes along with Obama's election-year plan, the nation would still end the year with unemployment pushing double digits at 9.8 percent and this year's pool of government red ink deepening to $1.56 trillion under the administration's accounting.

The spending blueprint for next year calls for tax cuts for workers and business and more aid for cash-starved state governments as well as the unemployed. The jobs initiative largely mirrors last year's stimulus bill, but is about one-third its size. The president is asking for nearly $300 billion for recession relief and job stimulus.



The budget paints a remarkably dire picture of a federal government that will have to borrow one-third of what it spends next year as it runs a deficit that still would total some $1.3 trillion.

Toyota has fix for gas pedals; repairs this week

WASHINGTON (AP)—Toyota apologized to its customers Monday and said a piece of steel about the size of a postage stamp will fix the gas pedal problem that led to the recall of millions of cars. Repairs will take about a half-hour and will start in a matter of days, the company said.

Toyota insisted the solution, rolled out six days after it temporarily stopped selling some of its most popular models, had been through rigorous testing and would solve the problem for the life of the car.

After a week in which Toyota drivers said they were worried about the safety of their cars and dealers were frustrated by a lack of information, Toyota said it would work to regain the trust of its customers.

"I know that we have let you down," Jim Lentz, president of Toyota Motor Sales USA, said in a video address.

The repair involves installing a steel shim a couple of millimeters thick in the pedal assembly, behind the top of the gas pedal, to eliminate the excess friction between two pieces of the accelerator mechanism. In rare cases, Toyota says, that friction can cause the pedal to become stuck in the depressed position.

Toyota said car owners would be notified by mail and told to set up appointments with their dealers. It said cars already on the road would get priority over those on the lot.

The recall covered 4.2 million cars worldwide and 2.3 million in the United States, including some of Toyota's best-selling models, such as the Camry and Corolla. It has recalled millions more because of floor mats that can catch the gas pedal.

Money woes could threaten high-speed rail's future

CHICAGO (AP)—The $8 billion in stimulus cash awarded to 13 high-speed rail corridors across the country may seem like a windfall for advocates, but there's a catch: The money isn't enough to finish any of the major projects.

State coffers are dry and federal spending is being cut back, so it's unclear who, if anyone, will pay the rest of the multi-billion dollar bill.

Many states have been vague about how they would foot their part of the bill. But experts say most are counting on the federal government to cover at least half of their costs over the next few decades—a hope that may clash with President Barack Obama's recent pledge to curb spending.

"As time goes on, as fast trains become a way of life for America, there will be more and more federal help," Ill. Gov. Pat Quinn said Friday after his state learned it would get more than a $1 billion of the stimulus money.

Optimists point to the 2011 federal budget Obama proposed Monday that seeks $1 billion more for high-speed trains on top of the $8 billion he announced in stimulus money last week. There's another $2.5 billion tucked away in the 2010 federal appropriations bill that has been approved but not yet allocated.

A proposed $500 billion, six-year federal transportation reauthorization bill includes $50 billion for high-speed rail. But that generous sum was included before Obama began talking about belt tightening, and it seems unlikely to win approval in its current form.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Backhoes, dogs search snow for Iowa State student

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Backhoes and dogs are being used to search for a missing Iowa State University student authorities fear could be buried in the snow. Jon Lacina hasn't been seen since he left a small gathering at a friend's home in Ames the night of Jan. 22. The Iowa State senior's father reported him missing Saturday, prompting a weekend search by about 250 people helped by a helicopter and dive team. Searchers Monday began using backhoes to scrape away snow near where Lacina was last seen. Parts of central Iowa were blanketed in several inches of snow in the days after Lacina went missing, and about 5 inches remains in Ames.

TX store sells $144 million-winning lottery ticket

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The Texas Lottery Commission says someone who bought a ticket at a Houston-area convenience store is the winner of the $144 million Mega Millions jackpot. Commission Deputy Executive Director Gary Grief says the winner of Friday's multistate lottery prize has yet to come forward and claim the haul. The commission said in a statement Monday that the ticket was sold at a Short Stop market in Katy, 26 miles from Houston, and that store is eligible for a $1 million retailer bonus.

Assembly practices go on trial with former Pa. rep

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—The Legislature's practices went on trial Monday along with a former state lawmaker and three of his aides, as prosecutors and defense attorneys described how taxpayer resources have been used to run campaigns while disagreeing sharply about who was to blame. The attorney general's office and lawyers for two of the four defendants made opening statements to a Dauphin County jury in the case against former Rep. Mike Veon and onetime legislative aides Brett Cott, Stephen Keefer and Annamarie Perretta-Rosepink. They are charged with theft, conspiracy and conflict of interest. Lawyers for Cott and Perretta-Rosepink are scheduled to address the jury Tuesday, after which testimony will begin in what could be a monthlong trial.

Arrest of Americans deepens Haiti adoption debate

NEW YORK (AP)—The debate over international adoption, already a bitter one, has intensified in the aftermath of Haiti's earthquake and the arrest of 10 Americans for trying to take children out of the devastated country without permission.

Some groups are urging a long moratorium on new adoptions from Haiti, saying there is too much chaos and too high a risk of mistakes or child trafficking. Other groups fear any long-term clampdown will consign countless children to lives in institutions or on the street, rather than in the loving homes of adoptive parents.

Chuck Johnson, chief operating officer of the National Council for Adoption, said the arrests of the 10 U.S. Baptists would probably undercut his organization's push to expand adoptions from Haiti as soon as feasible.

"It was a critical mistake—the Haitian government has been very clear they did not want any children leaving without its express permission," Johnson said Monday. "Maybe the Americans thought they were helping 33 kids, but now there's going to be a much slower process and maybe even a ban on future adoptions—and that would be a tragedy."

AP

A Haitian police officer instructs a person outside the police headquarters in the international airport of Port-au-Prince, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010.

The Americans, arrested Friday near Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic, were being held in a police headquarters in Port au Prince while Haitian and U.S officials discussed their fate.

Even before the arrests, the Haitian government called a halt to new international adoptions. Numerous organizations have endorsed the moratorium, some of them citing U.N. guidelines recommending that at least two years be spent tracing lost families before adoptions should be considered.

"No matter how horrific the situation looks ... the full process of reuniting children with parents and relatives must be completed," said Deb Barry, a Save the Children child protection expert.

US attorney has left Landrieu phone caper case

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The top federal prosecutor for New Orleans has removed himself from the case of four conservative activists arrested last week while trying to capture hidden camera footage in a senator's office, the Department of Justice said Monday.

A Justice Department news release said Jim Letten, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, recused himself from the case a day after the Jan. 25 arrests in Democrat Sen. Mary Landrieu's office in New Orleans. Letten's top lieutenant, assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Mann, has taken over.

The news release didn't say why Letten removed himself, and his spokeswoman Anna Christman said she couldn't comment.

One of the suspects is the son of Letten's Shreveport-based counterpart.

Another man who was arrested, daredevil videographer James O'Keefe, has said the group wanted to investigate complaints that constituents calling Landrieu's office couldn't get through to criticize her support of a health care reform bill. Landrieu's office has said O'Keefe's explanation is feeble, and the case should be thoroughly investigated.

Authorities said O'Keefe used his cell phone to try to capture video of two other men who posed as telephone repairmen and asked to see the phones at Landrieu's office.

Audio shows slain Ariz. officer was wary at stop

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona police officer slain during a traffic stop was wary of the alleged gunman minutes before the fatal shooting, according to dispatcher audio recordings released Monday.

The recordings also detail the ensuing high-speed 50-mile chase that ended in gunfire and involved dozens of Arizona law officers and the two suspects.

Lt. Eric Shuhandler, 42, was fatally shot in a suburban Phoenix shopping center parking lot Thursday night. He suspected the pickup truck's passenger of being wanted on an outstanding warrant.

"He's not that happy to talk to me," Shuhandler told the dispatcher in recordings released by Gilbert police. "I don't know if it's him or not. I'm going to pull him out of here."

A few minutes later, the 16-year veteran officer lay dead with a gunshot wound to the head.

"He's been shot in the head, send an ambulance!" a witness frantically screamed at a 911 dispatcher, while another person radioed for help on Shuhandler's radio.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DFW-052

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ELEVEN (11) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs) FOR THE DIVISION OF FIST & WILDLIFE-FISHERIES RESEARCE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2010 AT 2:00 P.M. AT THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN. ALL QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS ITB SHALL BE ADDRESSED TO MR. MICHAEL TENORIO AT 670) 664-6044 OR (670) 285-0427 NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ
SECRETARY, DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-R-OPM-045

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ MATHILDA A. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

REQUEST for PROPOSALS
MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
RFP #10-02

INVESTMENT in a LOCAL HIGH YIELD PORTFOLIO

This is a request for any and all investment proposals from interested parties or firms seeking capital sources or funding for projects or ventures within the CNMI.

MPLT Trustees has recently updated its Asset Allocation and determined that a percentage (5%) of its total investment portfolio ($3.137 million) shall be devoted to a local investment program. This local investment program will be designated as high yield investments since the associated risks are much higher than those of publicly traded investment grade securities. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Challenges to obtaining sufficient capital for projects or ventures.
- Associated promissory notes cannot be traded or sold thus have no liquidity.
- Associated promissory notes are not rated and considered less than investment grade.
- Often the local private or public sector proposer's ability to repay the loan is challenged.
- Credit rating for such borrowers is often low.
- Ability to raise capital or obtain credit is limited.
- Maximum exposure for each investment cannot be controlled.
- Sufficient collateral beyond those acquired with loan proceed is limited.

As a high yield investment, MPLT may limit the duration to a preferred five years term but longer term may be considered. This is not a low-income or low interest rate program. Interest rates will be determined based upon risk and duration. Due to the higher risks associated with this type of investment, a risk premium will be added to the base interest rate.

Proposal information and guidelines under this program can be obtained at the MPLT office as shown below. Further, as part of the fee, MPLT shall include fees for servicing costs, legal review fees, consult review fees. Therefore, each applicant shall be charged a non-refundable application fee of $500 by Cashier's Check or Money Order, due upon submission of the application. Each proposer shall agree to and shall pay an origination fee of 1% on the approved investment amount, for the closing/administrative costs for any approved proposal.

Ten (10) copies plus one original of the sealed proposals must be submitted to the MPLT Office, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 PM, on March 3, 2010. Proposals must be sealed and marked "Local High Yield Investment Program, RFP 10-02". Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in its best interests. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the MPLT.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on February 17, 2010 (Wednesday) from 5:00pm-7:00pm, Tanapag Head Start Center Resource Room, Saipan.

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Quorum
   4. Adoption of Agenda
   5. Adoption of Minutes:
      a. January 13, 2010-Regular Meeting
      b. January 21, 2010-Special Meeting

II. **Public Comments**

III. **Communications**
   1. From the State Board of Education
   2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. **Monthly Reports**
   1. Director
   2. Managers
   3. Finance
   4. Council Standing Committees
      a. Personnel
      b. Education
      c. Executive
      d. Finance
      e. Public Relations

V. **Old Business**
   1. 2009-10 Written Service Area Plan Update

VI. **New Business**
   1. Action Item:
      a. Approval of SY 2009-2010 Calendar
      b. Approval of Recommendations to Hire
      c. Approval of Head Start Expansion Grant Application
      d. Approval of Community Partnership Memorandum of Agreement
      e. Fall Child Outcomes Analysis

VII. **Executive Session**

VIII. **Next Meeting**

IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761; several days notice is required.

/s/ Mr. Gene Weaver
Chairperson

Asia

Malaysia's Anwar says PM behind sodomy trial

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim on Tuesday accused Malaysia's prime minister and his wife of involvement in bringing the sodomy case against him, and said he would seek to put them on the witness stand to prove it.

Anwar's long-awaited trial on charges of sodomizing a former male aide was postponed by about five hours pending a decision by another court whether the defense has the right to study in advance the evidence that the prosecution plans to unveil.

The former deputy prime minister has long maintained that the allegation is a conspiracy by his enemies to end his political career.

Anwar—dressed in gray shirt and jacket—was almost knocked down by television crews jostling to get near him as he arrived at the Kuala Lumpur High Court for the start of trial.

He came out of court about 30 minutes later to announce the trial had been adjourned until late afternoon.

Anwar was charged in August 2008 with sodomizing a 25-year-old male former aide, Saiful Bukhari Azlan. He told reporters he has evidence that Saiful visited Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife Rosmah a few days before making the allegation.

AP

Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, right, comforts his wife Wan Azizah after she was mobbed by media photographers at a courthouse in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010.

"They were personally involved in this conspiracy and frame-up. We have evidence that Saiful Bukhari was in the house with Rosmah and met Najib a few days before he lodged the police report," Anwar said.

He said he plans to subpoena the prime minister and his wife as witnesses.

Najib has acknowledged Saiful came to see him but says it was in connection with a university scholarship. Najib was deputy prime minister at that time.

This is not the first time Anwar has been accused of sodomy.

China says opposes Obama meeting with Dalai Lama

BEIJING (AP)—Any meeting between President Barack Obama and the Dalai Lama would harm bilateral relations, China warned Tuesday while repeating Beijing's refusal to discuss Tibet's status with the spiritual leader's envoys.

An Obama meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader would "seriously undermine the political foundation of Sino-U.S. relations," said Zhu Weiqun, executive deputy head of the Communist Party's United Front Work Department in charge of recent talks with the Dalai Lama's representatives.

Zhu was speaking at a news conference where he said Chinese officials told the envoys that Beijing would not make any compromises on its sovereignty over the Himalayan region and that both sides' views remained "sharply divided."

The warning to Obama comes after signals from U.S. officials in recent weeks that Obama might soon meet the exiled Tibetan leader—something Chinese officials are keen to avoid before President Hu Jintao travels to Washington, possibly in April.

Zhu said any arguments that the Dalai Lama was just a religious figure were wrong, calling the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize laureate the "head of a separatist group."

No date for Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama has been announced, but White House spokesman Mike Hammer said last month that "the President has made clear to the Chinese government that we intend to meet with the Dalai Lama, it has been his every intention." The White House did not immediately return a call seeking comment Monday night.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Judge denies feng shui master Wang fortune

HONG KONG (AP)—A bartender-turned-fortune teller who had an affair with the pig-tailed Hong Kong tycoon who was Asia's richest woman lost his bid for her multibillion-dollar estate Tuesday when a court deemed his will a forgery. The legal battle over the late Nina Wang's fortune has fascinated Hong Kong with its often-bizarre stories of Chinese feng shui rituals and illicit love affairs, offering a rare glimpse into the private quarters of the ultra-rich in this money-obsessed city. Feng shui is the Chinese practice of arranging objects or choosing dates to improve one's fortunes. Wang died of cancer in April 2007 at age 69. The lawsuit centered on two competing wills—the 2006 will held by feng shui master Tony Chan Chun-chuen and 2002 will that left Wang's fortune to Chinachem Charitable Foundation Ltd., a charity set up by the late businesswoman and her husband.

SKorea rules out any reward for summit with NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president Tuesday ruled out giving North Korean leader Kim Jong Il a reward for staging any future summit with Seoul. President Lee Myung-bak recently raised the possibility of an inter-Korean summit sometime this year amid speculation that negotiations for meeting with Kim were under way. The leaders of North and South Korea, which have remained in a state of war since 1953, have held two summits in Pyongyang over the past decade: in 2000 and 2007, before Lee took office in 2008.

Rights group: Rights of Tamil suspects violated

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka should end the indefinite detention of some of the 11,000 people held in its custody for suspected links with the Tamil Tiger rebels, a leading rights group said Tuesday. New-York based Human Rights Watch said that the government must identify which detainees with suspected rebel links present a genuine threat and release the rest. Sri Lanka's human rights minister said he had not seen the report, and would respond to it later. The suspects were detained during and after the Sri Lankan military's final offensive against the Tamil rebels, which ended with the rebel group's defeat in May and brought to a close decades of civil war.

World

Criticism of Haiti's government increasing

TITANYEN, Haiti (AP)—The mourning is far from over, but the politicking has resumed.

Hundreds gathered Monday at a gravel pit where countless earthquake victims have been dumped, turning a remembrance ceremony for the dead into one of the first organized political rallies since the disaster, with followers denouncing President Rene Preval.

Many called for ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return—a familiar political refrain when things swing between bad and worse in Haiti.

"Preval has done nothing for this country, nothing for the victims," said Jean Delcius, 54, who was bused to the memorial service by Aristide's development foundation. "We need someone new to take charge here. If it's not Aristide, then someone competent."

Critics were already blaming Preval for rising unemployment, corruption and greed. Then the Jan. 12 earthquake struck, killing at least 150,000 people, flattening most government buildings and turning the capital into an apocalyptic vision of broken concrete and twisted steel.

Preval has rarely been seen in public since, leaving his ministers to defend his performance—a job they are growing increasingly weary of.

Asked Monday about the criticism of Preval, Communications Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelin Lassegue batted back the questions, frowning and looking irritable.

"Those questions are for the president or the prime minister," he told The Associated Press.

Haiti's government also has had to deal with the 10 Americans who tried to take a busload of undocumented Haitian children out of the country. Prime Minister Max Bellerive also told the AP that "what they were doing was wrong," and they could be prosecuted in the United States.

Female suicide bomber in Iraq kills 54

BAGHDAD (AP)—A female suicide bomber detonated her explosives inside a way station for Shiite pilgrims Monday, killing 54 people and rattling security officials who are struggling against a possible rise in violence before key elections next month.

The attack was the third major strike by suspected Sunni insurgents in a week and left Baghdad's top security official acknowledging that extremists are adopting new methods to outwit bomb-detection squads such as stashing explosives deep inside the engines and frames of vehicles.

A similar warning about new tactics came last week from the chief U.S. military commander in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, after a two-day wave of suicide car bombers struck three hotels in Baghdad and the city's main crime lab, killing at least 63 people.

U.S. and Iraqi officials are deeply concerned that insurgents such as al-Qaida in Iraq could step up violence before March 7 parliamentary elections, which are seen as a critical step in reconciliation between the majority Shiites and the Sunnis who lost control with the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

US envoy: March vote in Iraq must be seen as fair

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. ambassador to Iraq outlined twin challenges Monday to the unsteady democracy's elections next month: assuring that voters and rival factions accept the result and then making sure the losers step aside quietly.

Christopher Hill said the March 7 parliamentary balloting will likely shape Iraq's path long after the U.S. military pullout. It also will test Sunni-Shiite cooperation to quell violence - which struck again Monday as a suicide bomber killed at least 54 Shiite pilgrims.

The vote, delayed from January, will be the last major election in which the U.S. military is helping with security. At stake are some of the country's most ambitious goals, including political and sectarian reconciliation and finalizing a law governing the oil industry, on which Iraq's economy is almost solely dependent.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexican mayor fears massacre of 16 was random

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—The mayor of a violent Mexican border city said Monday he fears a shooting that killed 16 people in a working class neighborhood may have been random because many of the victims were "good kids" with no apparent ties to drug gangs. The dead included at least eight teenagers, the youngest a 13-year-old girl. Mayor Jose Reyes Ferriz said police were pursuing all lines of investigation. But he said none of the victims of the attack Saturday night had criminal records, and the teenagers were "good kids, students, athletes."

New NIreland pact elusive, dashing premiers' hopes

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—Northern Ireland's major Protestant party unexpectedly withheld support Monday for a painstakingly negotiated deal with its Catholic partners to save their 2 1/2-year-old administration. The surprise setback upset plans by the British and Irish prime ministers, Gordon Brown and Brian Cowen, to travel to Northern Ireland to unveil what would have been a breakthrough in their efforts to sustain power-sharing, the central goal of the territory's 1998 peace accord. All sides said a successful conclusion remained possible Tuesday.

UN says nations' greenhouse gas pledges too little

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Goals on reducing greenhouse gases announced by major industrialized nations are a step forward but not enough to forestall the disastrous effects of climate change by midcentury, U.N. officials said Monday. Janos Pasztor, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's top climate adviser, said the goals, submitted to the U.N. as part of a voluntary plan to roll back emissions, make it highly unlikely the world can prevent temperatures from rising above the target set at the Copenhagen climate conference in December. Fifty-five nations—including China, the United States and 27-member European Union—met a Jan. 31 deadline to submit pledges to the U.N. for cutting those emissions. Together they produce 78 percent of the world's greenhouse gases stemming from fossil fuel burning. The deadline had been set at the Copenhagen conference.

President's sex life makes headlines in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South Africa's governing party says a report that the country's polygamist president fathered a child out of wedlock makes "a mountain out of nothing." The report, however, has sparked some criticism in a country where one-tenth of the population is living with the virus that causes AIDS. Johannesburg's Sunday Times newspaper, citing unnamed friends of the woman's family, reported that President Jacob Zuma had a daughter in October by a woman who is not one of his three wives nor a fourth woman to whom he is engaged.

Campus Life

US loses allure as study destination for Japanese

By KUMIKO ONO AND TAN TUANG JOO
THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN

TOKYO—Had Koichi Murata and Shoko Wadano been university students two decades ago, they likely would have followed the established trend for studying overseas by plumping to spend a year in the United States.

Though the two Waseda University seniors confess to having considered the United States as a study destination—as most Japanese students did toward the turn of the 20th century—they decided instead to jet off to alternative destinations.

Murata, 23, has just returned from a year studying at China's prestigious Peking University. "My parents wanted me to study in the United States," Murata said. "But I chose China to help land a job that would allow me to work with a rising economic powerhouse."

Wadano, 23, said, "Since I was a middle school student, I've wanted to get a job that requires me to use English." Wadano explained that the United States had been on her short list, but she eventually opted to study in Britain. "Because most people go to the United States, I wanted to do something different," she said.

Murata and Wadano are far from alone. In recent years, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of Japanese students studying in the United States.

According to a report by the Central Council for Education, an advisory panel to the education minister, there were 42,843 Japanese students studying in the United States in 1994—78 percent of all overseas students that year. However, this figure had gradually fallen to 35,282, or 46 percent, in 2006, according to the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry.

The Open Doors 2009 report published by the U.S.-based Institute of International Education also underscored this trend, noting that the number of Japanese students studying in the United States fell by 13.9 percent to 29,264 in the 2008-09 academic year from the previous academic year.

In contrast to the sharp decline in the number of Japanese students heading for the United States, young men and women keen to widen their knowledge are increasingly heading for alternative destinations—most notably, China.

In 1994, 5,055—or 9.2 percent—of Japanese students studying overseas made China their temporary home. In 2006, however, this number had increased to 18,363, or 24 percent, according to the council's report.

Kazuko Tsuchiya, chief administrative officer of the Japan Student Services Organization, which promotes overseas study, said China is on the verge of becoming even more popular as an overseas study destination.

"The number of Japanese students studying in China looks set to keep increasing, and could even exceed the United States," Tsuchiya said.

According to the ministry, Britain ranked third among Japanese students studying abroad in 2006, with 8.1 percent heading there. Next, in order of popularity, were Australia, Germany, Taiwan, France and Canada.

Educational costs likely are one reason for the recent diversification, with many aspiring overseas students keen to source cheaper destinations amid the economic downturn.

"We've been receiving an increasing number of questions about countries where it's cheap to study," Tsuchiya said. "Many students say, 'My parents are paying, so I want my overseas education to be as cheap as possible.' "

According to the U.S.-based College Board's "Trends in College Pricing 2009," the average cost of tuition for one academic year at a four-year public university was $17,460 for out-of-state students, while the figure for four-year private universities was $25,177 in the 2008-09 academic year.

In contrast, the average cost for one year of undergraduate tuition at a public university in China is about 500,000 yen ($5,450), while private universities generally start from 800,000 yen ($8,721), according to the Web site of the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

Though students also must cough up university entrance fees—about 300,000 yen ($3,270) on average—tuition in China is a fraction of the cost of that in the United States.

AP
Shoko Wadano, left, and Koichi Murata, shown on January 20, 2010, in Tokyo, Japan, decided to study abroad in Britain and China, respectively.

Shoko Hosoi, director of International Marketing at Alc Global Inc., which provides information on studying abroad, said an increasing number of students are lugging their suitcases to cheaper countries, such as Fiji, the Philippines and Singapore, to help brush up their English.

Meanwhile, an apparent attitude change among young Japanese is being cited as another factor in the decline in the United States' popularity as a study destination.

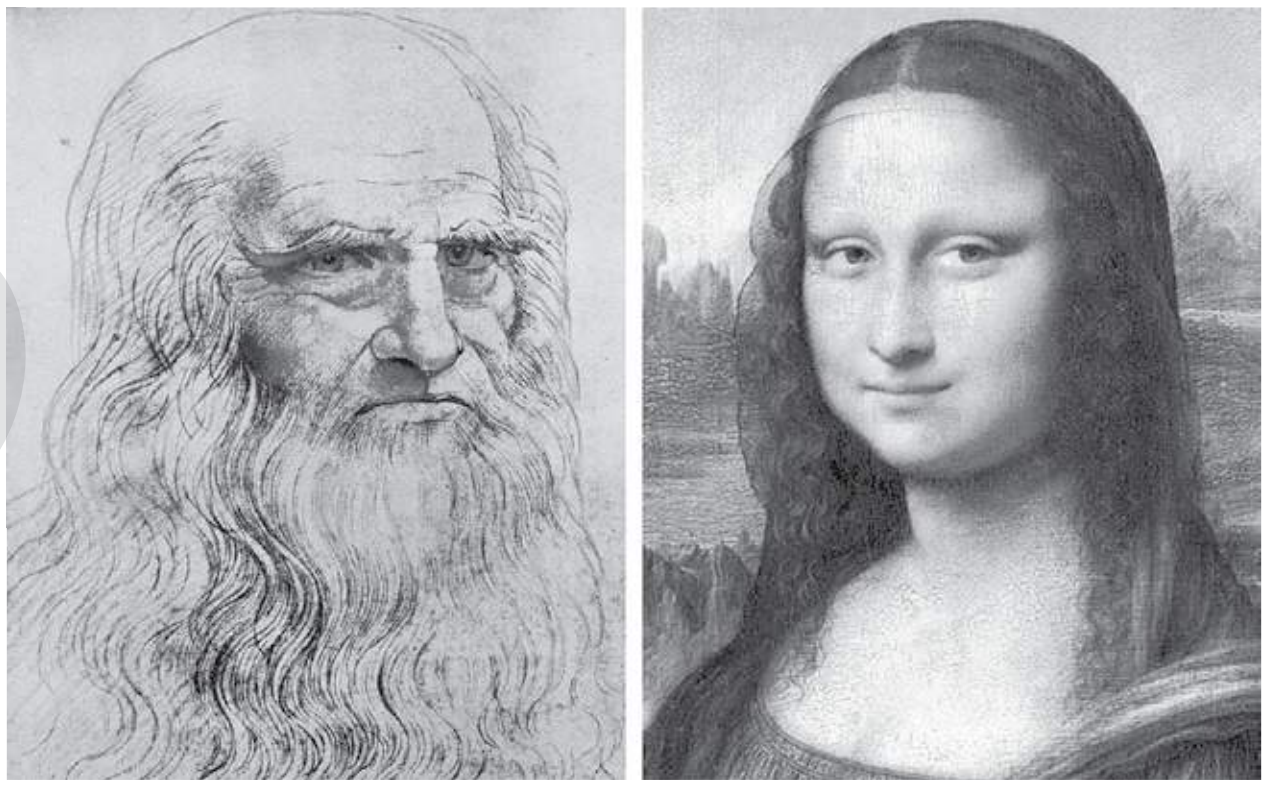
David Satterwhite, executive director of the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission, which is known for its Fulbright Program, said: "In earlier decades, there was a sense of adventure, (with students feeling) that 'I want to experience something new.' But lately, I think there's been a trend ... of not wanting to take a risk.

"The kind of trend that we've seen over the past decade is a crisis over the long term for Japan's future," Satterwhite said.

Media's grip on teens and tweens
The Kaiser Family Foundation recently conducted a study to find how young people ages 8 to 18 use media in their daily lives. The results help explain media's roll in adolescent development as well as how parents can influence or control media consumption.
Media usage
Over the last five years, the time young people spend using media has increased nearly 17 percent. Electronic media has made the biggest strides.
Total daily media usage
Hours 0:00 Minutes
2004 8:33
2009 10:45
NOTE: Multitasking not factored
Medium | Time spent with medium | Difference from 2004 | Percent change
TV 4:29 :38 14.13%
Music/audio 2:31 :47 31.1%
Computer 1:29 :27 30.3%
Video games 1:13 :24 32.9%
Print :38 -:05 -13.5%
Movies :25 No change 0.00%
Mobile media and multitasking
With the increased capabilities of cell phones, multitasking is becoming the norm.
Mobile media ownership
2004 2009
Cell phone 39% 66%
iPod/ MP3 player 18% 76%
Handheld video game 55% 59%
Laptop 12% 29%
Portable CD/tape player 61% 16%
Time spent with cell phone (2009)
Calling Texting Listening to music Playing games
Boys :28 1:14 :16 :17
Girls :38 1:58 :18 :16
Black :46 2:03 :35 :29
White :25 1:22 :08 :09
Hispanic :37 1:42 :21 :24
All :33 1:35 :17 :17
Media multitasking (2009)
Use another medium most of the time while:
Listening to music 43%
Using a computer 40%
Reading 27%
Watching TV 39%
Media in the household and academic performance
The study shows there can be a relationship between media use and academic performance, and parental control and media use.
Have parental rules about
What they can do on computor 52%
What they can watch on TV 46%
Which games they can play 30%
What music they can listen to 26%
Rules enforced most of the time 26%
Rules enforced some of the time 39%
Impact of parental rules
Time spent with media
Some rules 9:51
No rules 12:43
TV environment
No TV in bedroom 7:55
TV in bedroom 11:56
Academic performance
Heavy media use
Moderate media use
Light media use
Percentage of users get mostly:
60
40
20
51% 65 66
47 31 23
A's and B's
C's or below
Source: The Kaiser Family Foundation
Graphic: Alex Bordens
© 2010 MCT

Life & Style

Did Leonardo paint himself as "Mona Lisa"?



AP

This combination of images shows an undated self portrait of Leonardo Da Vinci, left, and the Mona Lisa.

ROME (AP)—The legend of Leonardo da Vinci is shrouded in mystery: How did he die? Are the remains buried in a French chateau really those of the Renaissance master? Was the "Mona Lisa" a self-portrait in disguise?

A group of Italian scientists believes the key to solving those puzzles lies with the remains—and they say they are seeking permission from French authorities to dig up the body to conduct carbon and DNA testing.

If the skull is intact, the scientists can go to the heart of a question that has fascinated scholars and the public for centuries: the identity of the "Mona Lisa." Recreating a virtual and then physical reconstruction of Leonardo's face, they can compare it with the smiling face in the painting, experts involved in the project told The Associated Press.

"We don't know what we'll find if the tomb is opened, we could even just find grains and dust," says Giorgio Gruppioni, an anthropologist who is participating in the project. "But if the remains are well kept, they are a biological archive that registers events in a person's life, and sometimes in their death."

The leader of the group, Silvano Vinceti, told the AP that he plans to press his case with the French officials in charge of the purported burial site at Amboise Castle early next week.

But the Italian enthusiasm may be premature.

In France, exhumation requires a long legal procedure, and precedent suggests it's likely to take even longer when it involves a person of great note such as Leonardo.

Jean-Louis Sureau, director of the medieval-era castle located in France's Loire Valley, said that once a formal request is made, a commission of experts would be set up. Any such request would then be discussed with the French Ministry of Culture, Sureau said.

Leonardo moved to France at the invitation of King Francis I, who named him "first painter to the king." He spent the last three years of his life there, and died in Cloux, near the monarch's summer retreat of Amboise, in 1519 at age 67.

The artist's original burial place, the palace church of Saint Florentine, was destroyed during the French Revolution and remains that are believed to be his were eventually reburied in the Saint-Hubert Chapel near the castle.

The tombstone says simply, "Leonardo da Vinci;" a notice at the site informs visitors they are the presumed remains of the artist, as do guidebooks.

"The Amboise tomb is a symbolic tomb; it's a big question mark," said Alessandro Vezzosi, the director of a museum dedicated to Leonardo in his Tuscan hometown of Vinci.

Vezzosi, who is not involved in the project, said that investigating the tomb could help identify the artist's bones with certainty and solve other questions, such as the cause of his death. He said he asked to open the tomb in 2004 to study the remains, but the Amboise Castle turned him down.

As for the latest Italian proposal, Vinceti says preliminary conversations took place several years ago and he plans to follow up with a request next week to set up a meeting to explain the project in detail. This would pave the way for a formal request, he said.

The group of 100 experts involved in the project, called the National Committee for Historical and Artistic Heritage, was created in 2003 with the aim of "solving the great enigmas of the past," said Vinceti, who has written books on art and literature.

Arguably the world's most famous painting, the "Mona Lisa" hangs in the Louvre in Paris, where it drew some 8.5 million visitors last year. Mystery has surrounded the identity of the painting's subject for centuries, with speculation ranging from the wife of a Florentine merchant to Leonardo's own mother.

That Leonardo intended the "Mona Lisa" as a self-portrait in disguise is a possibility that has intrigued and divided scholars. Theories have abounded: Some think that Leonardo's taste for pranks and riddles might have led him to conceal his own identity behind that baffling smile; others have speculated that, given Leonardo's presumed homosexuality, the painting hid an androgynous lover.

Some have used digital analysis to superimpose Leonardo's bearded self-portrait over the "Mona Lisa" to show how the facial features perfectly aligned.

If granted access to the grave site, the Italian experts plan to use a miniature camera and ground-penetrating radar—which produces images of an underground space using radar waves-to confirm the presence of bones. The scientists would then exhume the remains and attempt to date the bones with carbon testing.

At the heart of the proposed study is the effort to ascertain whether the remains are actually Leonardo's, including with DNA testing.

Vezzosi questions the feasibility of a DNA comparison, saying he is unaware of any direct descendants of Leonardo or of tombs that could be attributed with certainty to the artist's close relatives. Gruppioni said DNA extracted from the bones could also eventually be compared to DNA found elsewhere. For example, Leonardo is thought to have smudged colors on the canvas with his thumb, possibly using saliva, meaning DNA might be found on his paintings, though Gruppioni conceded this was a long shot.

Even in the absence of DNA testing, other tests could provide useful information, including whether the bones belonged to a man or woman, and whether the person died young or old.

"We can have various levels of probability in the attribution of the bones," Gruppioni said. "To have a very high probability, DNA testing is necessary."

The experts would also look for any pathology or other evidence of the cause of death. Tuberculosis or syphilis, for example, would leave significant traces in the bone structure, said Vinceti.

In the best-case scenario—that of a well-preserved skull—the group would take a CAT scan and reconstruct the face, said Francesco Mallegni, an anthropology professor who specializes in reconstructions and has recreated the faces of famous Italians, including Dante

Even within the committee, experts are divided over the identity of the "Mona Lisa."

Vinceti believes that a tradition of considering the self-portrait to be not just a faithful imitation of one's features but a representation of one's spiritual identity may have resonated with Leonardo. Vezzosi, the museum director, dismissed as "baseless and senseless" the idea that the "Mona Lisa" could be a self-portrait of Leonardo.

The painting is "like a mirror: Everybody starts from his own hypothesis or obsession and tries to find it there," Vezzosi said in a telephone interview.

He said most researchers believe the woman may have been either a concubine of the artist's sponsor, the Florentine nobleman Giuliano de Medici, or Lisa Gherardini, the wife of a rich silk merchant, Francesco del Giocondo. The traditional view is that the name "Mona Lisa" comes from the silk merchant's wife, as well as its Italian name: "La Gioconda."

The mystery grows: What's in Salinger's safe?

NEW YORK (AP)—So what about the safe? The death this week of J.D. Salinger ends one of literature's most mysterious lives and intensifies one of its greatest mysteries: Was the author of "The Catcher in the Rye" keeping a stack of finished, unpublished manuscripts in a safe in his house in Cornish, N.H? Are they masterpieces, curiosities or random scribbles?

And if there are publishable works, will the author's estate release them?

The Salinger camp isn't talking.

No comment, says his literary representative, Phyllis Westberg, of Harold Ober Associates Inc.

No plans for any new Salinger books, reports his publisher, Little, Brown & Co.

Marcia B. Paul, an attorney for Salinger when the author sued last year to stop publication of a "Catcher" sequel, would not get on the phone Thursday.

His son, Matt Salinger, referred questions about the safe to Westberg.

Stories about a possible Salinger trove have been around for a long time. In 1999, New Hampshire neighbor Jerry Burt said the author had told him years earlier that he had written at least 15 unpublished books kept locked in a safe at his home. A year earlier, author and former Salinger girlfriend Joyce Maynard had written that Salinger used to write daily and had at least two novels stored away.

Salinger, who died Wednesday at age 91, began publishing short stories in the 1940s and became a sensation in the 1950s after the release of "Catcher," a novel that helped drive the already wary author into near-total seclusion. His last book, "Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour," came out in 1963 and his last published work of any kind, the short story "Hapworth 16, 1924," appeared in The New Yorker in 1965.

Jay McInerney, a young star in the 1980s thanks to the novel "Bright Lights, Big City," is not a fan of Hapworth and skeptical about the contents of the safe.

"I think there's probably a lot in there, but I'm not sure if it's necessarily what we hope it is," McInerney said Thursday. "'Hapworth' was not a traditional or terribly satisfying work of fiction. It was an insane epistolary monologue, virtually shapeless and formless. I have a feeling that his later work is in that vein."

Author-editor Gordon Lish, who in the 1970s wrote an anonymous story that convinced some readers it was a Salinger original, said he was "certain" that good work was locked up in Cornish. Novelist Curtis Sittenfeld, frequently compared to Salinger because of her novel "Prep," was simply enjoying the adventure.

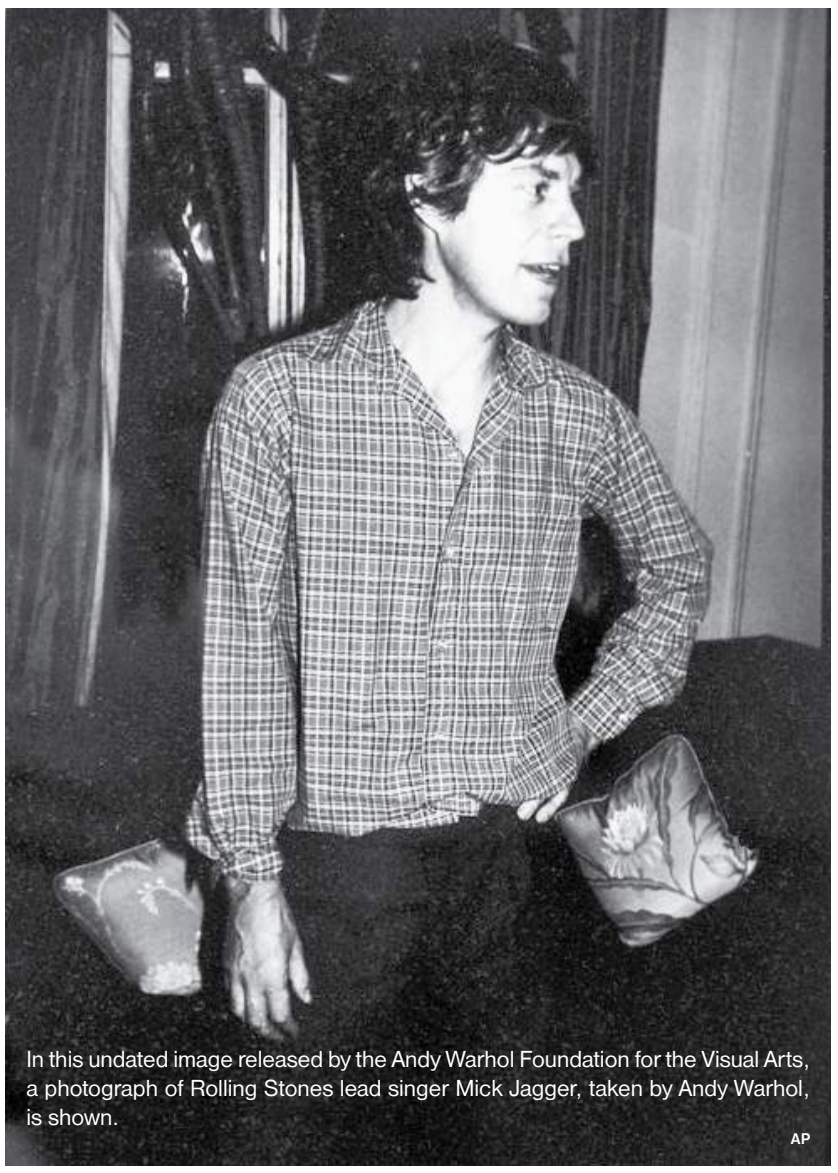
"I can't wait to find out!" she said. "In our age of shameless self-promotion, it's extraordinary, and kind of great, to think of someone really and truly writing for writing's sake."

Some of the great works of literature have been published after the author's death, and even against the author's will, including such Franz Kafka novels as "The Trial" and "The Castle," which Kafka had requested be destroyed.

Because so little is known about what Salinger was doing, it's so easy to guess. McInernay said he has an old girlfriend who met Salinger and was told that the author was mostly writing about health and nutrition. Lish said Salinger told him back in the 1960s that he was still writing about the Glass family, featured in much of Salinger's work.

But the Salinger papers might exist only in our dreams, like the second volume of Nikolai Gogol's "Dead Souls," which the Russian author burned near the end of his life. The Salinger safe also could turn into a version of Henry James' novella "The Aspern Papers," in which the narrator's pursuit of a late poet's letters ends with his being told that they were destroyed. Margaret Salinger, the author's daughter, wrote in a memoir published in 2000 that J.D. Salinger had a precise filing system for his papers: A red mark meant the book could be released "as is," should the author die. A blue mark meant that the manuscript had to be edited.

"There is a marvelous peace in not publishing," J.D. Salinger told The New York Times in 1974. "Publishing is a terrible invasion of my privacy. I like to write. I love to write. But I write just for myself and my own pleasure."



In this undated image released by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, a photograph of Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger, taken by Andy Warhol, is shown.

AP

Warhol photographs distributed across nation

By CARRIE ANTLFINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Andy Warhol kept boxes upon boxes of soup cans, receipts, fan mail and many other items, including thousands of photos he later used as inspiration for his giant paintings.

Now more than 180 colleges and university museums, and galleries around the nation are benefiting. The New York City-based Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts has donated to them more than 28,500 of Warhol's photos, worth $28 million.

"This is a little-known body of Warhol's work," Jenny Moore, curator for the foundation's "Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program" said. "I think most people are familiar with the paintings and even the sculptures and ... we really wanted the chance to let a broader audience gain access to his photographic work, which is of course the basis of so much of his artistic production."

Each of the public educational institutions has generally received about 100 Polaroid and 50 black-and-white photos from the 1970s and 1980s, Moore said. They have gifted a majority of the photos since they started the program in 2007 but are still giving out more, she said.

The photos include celebrity snapshots, couples, nudes, painting ideas, party photos, still lifes and outdoor scenes. He often used the photos as the inspiration for portraits, silkscreen paintings, drawings and prints.

Four colleges and universities in Wisconsin received photos, including the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Crossman Gallery. Gallery director Michael Flanagan said they received about 80 photos this month. He immediately put a few into their permanent collection exhibition, which ends Feb. 13. Warhol is by far the most recognizable name in their collection, he said.

"It's nice for the students," Flanagan said. "It's a name that most of them recognize. Now they get to see the actual object."

When Warhol died in 1987, he indicated he wanted the foundation to be dedicated to "the advancement of the visual arts," Moore said.

"This is something he would have been very exited about," Moore said. "For people to be able to see the kinds of things that interested him that made it into painting and prints."

Moore said the foundation focused on institutions that could not acquire works on their own and those that could properly care for the photos. For those that already had Warhol in their collections, the foundation hoped to "enrich the breadth and depth of their holdings," according to the foundation Web site.

"We've really tried to gift to kind of the smallest institutions all the way up to larger encyclopedic universities' museums," Moore said.

The museum at Bard College in Annandale on Hudson, N.Y., received 158 photos in early 2008 through the program. Marcia Acita, assistant director at CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, said more than a dozen graduate students used one of Warhol's Polaroids of Marieluise Hessel, who founded Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies and Art in Contemporary Culture, for an exhibition last year.

Acita said they received nine Polaroids of Hessel. Warhol took them to help him come up with his acrylic on canvas silkscreen of Hessel in 1981, which the museum also owns.

Having such a famous artist's work in hand enriches students' experiences, she said.

Warhol published three books, one posthumously, featuring his black-and-white photos. There was "Andy Warhol's Exposures" in 1979, "America" in 1985 and "Andy Warhol's Party Book" in 1988.

Attorney: Rip Torn heading to rehab after arrest

LITCHFIELD, Connecticut (AP)— Rip Torn was so intoxicated when he broke into a bank carrying a loaded gun that he thought he was home, taking off his hat and boots and leaving them by the door, according to court records.

The 78-year-old actor was wearing the same battered boots Monday when he was arraigned on several charges after spending the weekend in a police holding cell near his hometown of Salisbury, in northwestern Connecticut.

Torn, who did not enter a plea, was released on $100,000 bond a few hours later and waded through a phalanx of media to a friend's waiting vehicle. He smiled and wished onlookers a nice day but did not answer questions about the arrest.

He is expected to enter an alcohol rehabilitation center in New York as early as Tuesday, according to his attorney.

Torn was given probation last year in a Connecticut drunken driving case and allowed to enter an alcohol education program. He completed the first stage of that program.

He also has two previous drunken driving arrests in New York.

"The history here is clear that there's an alcohol issue that needs to be addressed," his attorney, A. Thomas Waterfall, told Bantam Superior Court Judge John W. Pickard on Monday.

The "Men in Black" actor is accused of breaking into the Litchfield Bancorp branch through a window Friday night in Salisbury, where officers responding to an alarm found him wandering in the lobby and nearly incoherent.

According to court records, Torn was disoriented, reeked of alcohol and asked the state police troopers repeatedly why they were taking him out of his home.

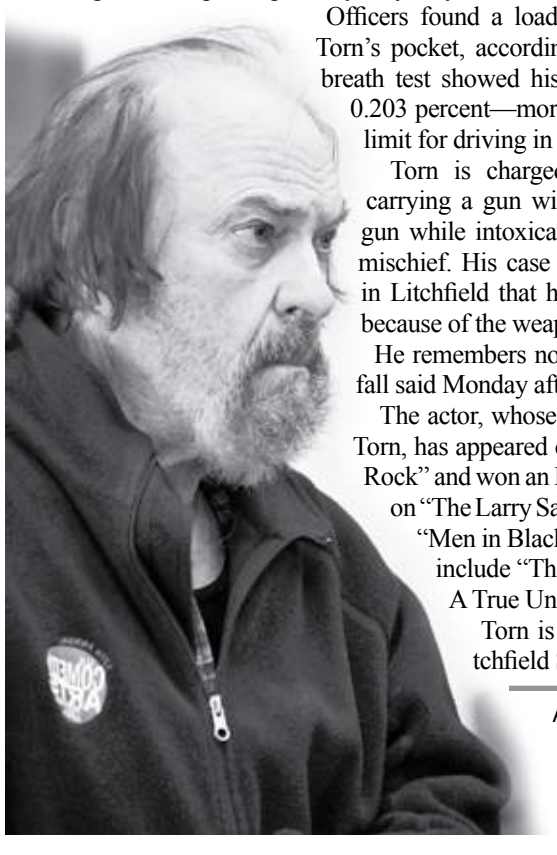
Officers found a loaded .22-caliber revolver in Torn's pocket, according to court records, and a breath test showed his blood-alcohol content as 0.203 percent—more than twice the 0.08 legal limit for driving in Connecticut.

Torn is charged with criminal trespass, carrying a gun without a permit, carrying a gun while intoxicated, burglary and criminal mischief. His case was transferred to a court in Litchfield that handles more serious cases because of the weapons charges.

He remembers nothing of that night, Waterfall said Monday after the arraignment.

The actor, whose real name is Elmore Rual Torn, has appeared on the television show "30 Rock" and won an Emmy in 1996 for his work on "The Larry Sanders Show." In addition to "Men in Black," his recent movie credits include "The Insider" and "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story."

Torn is scheduled to return to Litchfield Superior Court on Feb. 17.



Actor Elmore "Rip" Torn, appears in Bantam Superior Court in Bantam, Conn. Monday Feb. 1, 2010.

AP

Irish singer Imelda May performs on Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Irish rockabilly singer Imelda May performed live on the Grammys, America's top music awards show.

May, who is based in London, sang "How High the Moon" in a tribute to the late guitar legend Les Paul. She performed Sunday with British guitarist Jeff Beck on a broadcast that attracted an estimated 25.8 million viewers.

At 35, May is finally enjoying a taste of mainstream success in a career that began singing in Dublin clubs at age 16. She did her first American tour last year in support of her album "Love Tattoo."

Her collection of jazzy, bluesy, roots rock songs topped the Irish charts and won her the Best Irish Female award at the Meteor Ireland Music Awards, the Irish equivalent of the Grammys.

May, a sultry performer with a booming voice, looks like a rebellious rocker straight out of the 1950s—complete with blond-streaked black hair tied in a ponytail. She was named best jazz artist of 2009 by The Times of London and "Next Big Thing" by the Daily Mail.

Another TV performance helped launch May in Britain. After opening a concert for former Squeeze musician Jools Holland in 2008, she appeared on his live BBC music show, "Later With Jools Holland." May soon landed a record deal with Universal Records' U.K. label. Another record is already in the works and slated for release this year.

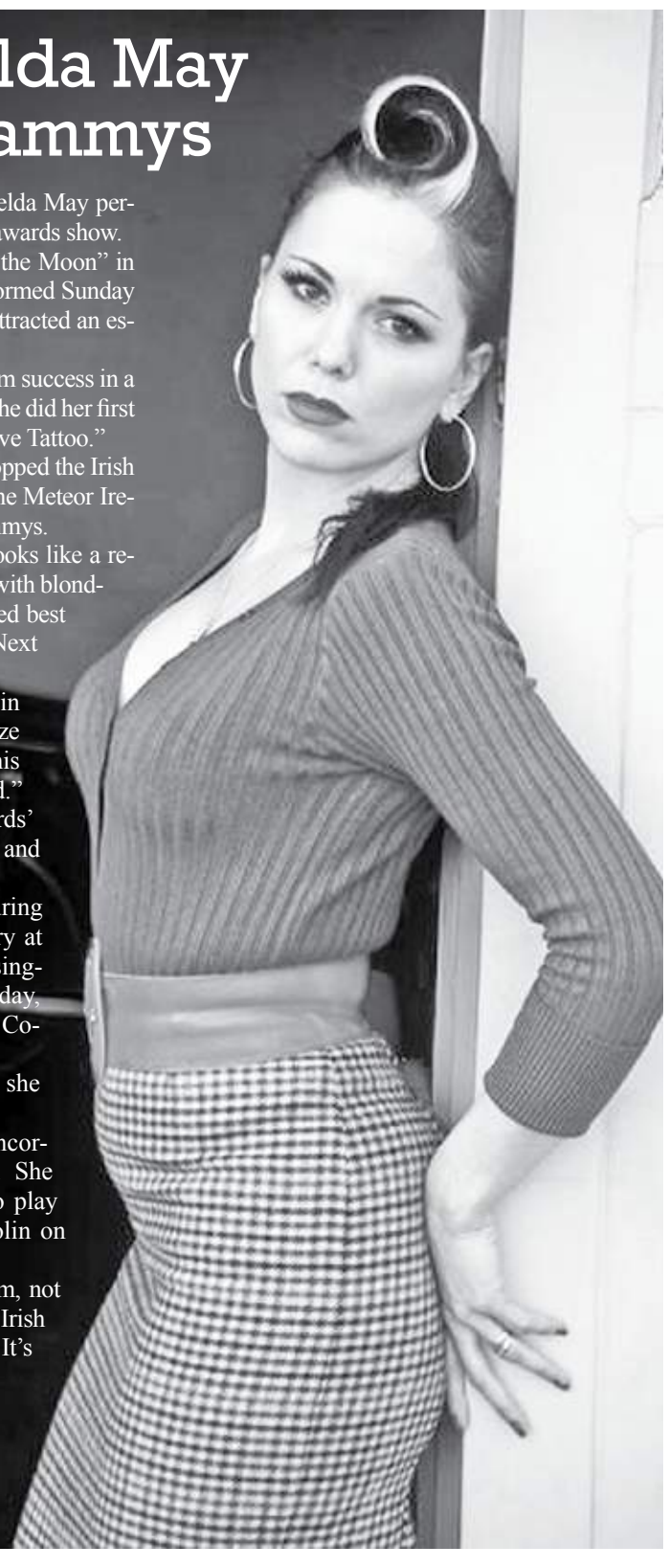
In an interview with the Associated Press during her brief U.S. tour, after opening for Chuck Berry at a New York show, May named classic American singers as her biggest influences, including Billie Holiday, Patsy Cline, Elvis and rockabilly singers Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent and Wanda Jackson.

"That music didn't make me popular at school," she said.

Along with American roots influences, May incorporates traditional Irish sounds into her songs. She plays the bodhran, the Irish drum she learned to play by watching older musicians in the pubs of Doolin on Ireland's west coast.

"It's a great sound ... the boom-chica-boom-boom, not unlike the Bo Diddley stuff," she said. "Traditional Irish music and blues and country music are all similar. It's hypnotic, it just goes round and round.

"You lose your mind in it, and your soul."



In this undated publicity image released by Sound Advice, Irish singer Imelda May is shown.

AP

Stars gather to cover 'We Are the World' for Haiti

By SOLVEJ SCHOU
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More than 75 stars gathered to re-record the 1985 charity anthem "We are the World" in the same Hollywood recording studio where the original was cut 25 years ago.

Pink, Celine Dion, Natalie Cole, the Jonas Brothers, Kanye West, Tony Bennett, Jennifer Hudson, Akon and other musical luminaries stood shoulder to shoulder Monday on risers at Henson Recording studios, singing their hearts out and hoping to help Haiti. There were some conspicuous no-shows, including Beyonce Knowles, Justin Timberlake and Lady Gaga.

At one point during the session, the musicians broke out into an a cappella version of the pop classic "Lean on Me."

True to her diva reputation, Barbra Streisand recorded her solo over and over, completely absorbed in the recording process and stopping only to correct her pitch.

Rapper Lil' Wayne was told he would do Bob Dylan's part in the original song.

"I said, 'Are you kidding?'" he said. He felt blessed to record the song but admitted, "I don't know how to sing."

Asked how the earthquake had affected him, he said he had Haitian friends in Miami who lost relatives in the disaster.

"I think it's amazing what's been done for Haiti, but I think it's amazing what hasn't been done for New Orleans," said the Crescent City native.

Quincy Jones, who produced the 1985 anthem, announced last week that he planned to redo the song to benefit recovery from the deadly Jan. 12 earthquake in Port-au-Prince.

Written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, the original "We Are the World" thundered up the charts when it was released on the radio and in record stores in March 1985.

An unprecedented number of top pop musicians gathered at A&M the night of Jan. 28, 1985, following the American Music Awards, to record the tune. The song featured 45 American superstars, including Jackson, Richie, Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner, Ray Charles, Bruce Springsteen, Diana Ross, Bob Dylan and Cyndi Lauper.

None of the original performers returned for the re-record.

The 1985 record raised more than $30 million for USA for Africa, a nonprofit organization founded by the singers to fund hunger relief in African nations.

While reporters watched a video feed of the session in a nearby room, stars like West mingled outside with friends and greeted his buddy, Snoop Dogg, with a hug.

Nicole Richie and "Good Charlotte" singer Joel Madden showed up with their 2-year-old daughter Harlow, whom Madden bounced in his arms to the beat of the music.

Julianne Hough from "Dancing with the Stars," who is also a country singer, was only 3 years old when the original tune came out. She said she felt honored to lend her voice to the effort and sing next to so many talented musicians.

"It's just iconic. Celine (Dion) is just so gracious and amazing and such a pro," she said.

AP

In this March 30, 2009 file photo, Swedish rapper David Moses Jassy, who is accused of killing jazz pianist John Osnes in a road-rage incident on Nov. 23, 2008, listens during a preliminary hearing in Los Angles Superior Court.

Swedish rapper convicted of killing man with vehicle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Swedish hip-hop artist who ran down and killed a man at a Hollywood crosswalk was convicted of second-degree murder, assault and battery Monday.

David Moses Jassy, who also uses the name Dave Monopoly, was acquitted of two other counts, including assault with a deadly weapon. He faces 15 years to life in prison when he's sentenced next month.

Prosecutors said the 35-year-old rapper killed Los Angeles pedestrian activist John Osnes in November 2008. Prosecutors say Osnes banged on the hood of Jassy's rented sport utility vehicle when it stopped inside a crosswalk.

Deputy District Attorney Sarika Kapoor said Jassy punched Osnes in the face, delivered a "brutal kick" to his head when the 55-year-old bent down to pick up his glasses, and ran over him as he drove away.

Jassy testified that he never intended to hurt Osnes and cried as he told the court that he didn't know Osnes had died until police told him the next day.

He said he got out of the SUV because he wanted to see what had happened to the rented vehicle. He said he thought it was "going to be an argument, not a fight."

Several jurors said outside court that they were not sure Jassy purposely ran over 55-year-old John Osnes or knew that he had done.

Police said Jassy drove away despite witnesses' attempts to stop him. He was arrested after Los Angeles police traced him through the rental car's license plate.

Family members said the victim was a self-taught "talented pianist" who worked in the travel industry so he could play professionally as much as possible.

Jassy claimed to have sung with and written several songs for "High School Musical" star Ashley Tisdale, as well as for Swedish, German and other international pop artists.

'Avatar,' other hits vie for expanded Oscar field

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Cameron can deliver an audience, whether at movie theaters or at the Academy Awards, whether in the frosty North Atlantic or on a lush world light-years away.

Cameron's science-fiction sensation "Avatar" is among a strong crop of popular films in the running for Oscar nominations Tuesday, the sort of hits organizers hope can elevate the modest TV ratings the ceremony has drawn in recent years.

Along with "Avatar," prospects in the Oscar's newly expanded best-picture race of 10 films include two other sci-fi smashes, "Star Trek" and "District 9," the World War II hit "Inglourious Basterds" and the animated blockbuster "Up."

Also contending are such critical darlings as the recession tale "Up in the Air," the war-on-terror thriller "The Hurt Locker," the Nelson Mandela story "Invictus" and the teen dramas "An Education" and "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' By Sapphire."

Among acting favorites are lead players Sandra Bullock for the football drama "The Blind Side" and Jeff Bridges for the country-music tale "Crazy Heart," and supporting performers Mo'Nique for "Precious" and Christoph Waltz for "Inglourious Basterds." All four won Golden Globes for the roles.

Cameron made the two biggest modern blockbusters with 1997's "Titanic," set aboard the doomed luxury liner on its maiden Atlantic crossing, and "Avatar," a tale of humans and aliens in conflict on a distant moon.

"Titanic" did $1.84 billion at the box office worldwide. Just before his new sci-fi epic opened in December, Cameron said, "I don't expect that kind of performance out of 'Avatar.'"

Yet "Avatar," which won for best drama and director at the Golden Globes, has shot past "Titanic," heading beyond $2 billion with plenty of box-office life left in it.

AP

A child stands in front of a giant poster for U.S. director James Cameron's sci-fi epic "Avatar" at a theater in Beijing, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010.

Oscar TV ratings typically rise when a major commercial hit is among the favorites. "Titanic" dominated the Oscars and lured the biggest TV audience ever—55.2 million viewers—for Hollywood's premier party.

The TV audience has been well below that mark since then, bottoming out at 32 million two years ago, when "No Country for Old Men" was the big winner, and coming in at 36.3 million last year, when "Slumdog Millionaire" took best picture.

Oscar organizers decided last summer to double the best-picture field to 10 movies, saying they felt there were more than five worthy contenders.

The expanded best-picture category caught Hollywood by surprise, with filmmakers, actors, studio executives and others divided over the idea. Some say it opens the Oscars up to a broader range of films, others think it might allow lesser movies to sneak into the best-picture competition.

Among those with reservations:

■ "I'm never up for lowering the standards. Every one of the nominees should be able to win best picture, and if that can't be said, I'm not sure what the reasoning is behind it," said M. Night Shyamalan, who made the 1999 best-picture nominee "The Sixth Sense."

■ "Does that make the awards more prestigious? No. I think it makes it less prestigious," said "Harry Potter" producer David Heyman. "But listen, if I were ever one of the 10, I'd be very proud and very happy."

■ "It seems like it might take away a little bit of the exclusivity of being a nominee out of five, rather than to be a nominee out of 10," said Michael Douglas, a producer of 1975 best-picture winner "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and the 1987 best-actor winner for "Wall Street."

Among those who think it might be a good idea:

"Consider critics. No critic has trouble coming up with a top-10 list," said "The Dark Knight" director Christopher Nolan, who earned a screenplay nomination for 2001's "Memento." ''When you look at the critics' top-10 lists, they're broad lists, a lot of different types of movies. That works very well for critics, and maybe it'll work for the academy."

"I believe in a year where you would have 'Up in the Air' and 'Precious' alongside 'Avatar' and 'Up,' I think all it does is bring more attention to the smaller films maybe people wouldn't see," said Jake Gyllenhaal, a 2005 Oscar nominee for "Brokeback Mountain."

"I don't think it's a bad thing to give the opportunity to more popular films that also are good films," said Lee Unkrich, director of the upcoming "Toy Story 3" from Pixar Animation, which made best-picture contender "Up."

Denzel Washington, a two-time Oscar winner for 1989's "Glory" and 2001's "Training Day," said expanding the best-picture category makes good business sense for the show's ratings and opens the door for worthy commercial films.

But Washington said he hoped it would not lead to broadening other categories to 10 nominees, which could make an already lengthy ceremony interminable.

"You think the show's long now? It'll go on for two days," Washington joked. "It'll get an Emmy nomination for best miniseries."

US TV network sells out last Super Bowl ads

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS Corp. said it sold out of ads for the Super Bowl on Monday at average prices that are better than last year, with some 30-second spots topping $3 million apiece.

CBS said the final spot for the NFL championship game, one of the most watched TV events in the U.S., sold Monday morning, six days before kickoff.

That's a few days ahead of schedule. Last year, NBC still had two 30-second spots remaining two days before the game as the economy was mired in a recession, and announced only on the eve of the game that it sold out a total 69 spots.

CBS said last month it was selling 62 spots, but that grew over time and the final number of spots is "very close" to what NBC sold last year, said spokesman Dana McClintock. The network provided no further details on prices.

"We're happy campers over here," said Jo Ann Ross, president of network sales at CBS.

She said some spots during the pre-game broadcast were still available.

The Super Bowl is regularly the biggest marketing event of the year, and last year's event had a record 98.7 million viewers, according to Nielsen.

Ads during the 2009 game brought in $213 million, according to Kantar Media, formerly known as TNS Media Intelligence.

The Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints play in the Super Bowl in Miami this Sunday.

Etta James remains hospitalized in US

RIVERSIDE, California (AP)—Etta James' manager says the R&B singer is recovering from sepsis and remains hospitalized in Southern California.

Lupe De Leon said Monday that James is stable and he doesn't know when the 72-year-old singer will be released from the Riverside Community Hospital.

Her son Donto James said Friday her mother has been hospitalized for about a week with sepsis caused by a urinary tract infection.

She entered a treatment program to shake a dependency on painkillers and was transferred to the hospital when her condition worsened.

Etta James, who sang everything from blues to jazz, is best known for the hit "At Last."

Beyonce portrayed her and sang the song in the film "Cadillac Records" and at an inaugural ball for President Barack Obama.

AP

In this Nov. 24, 2008 file photo, Etta James arrives at the premiere of "Cadillac Records" in Los Angeles.

Couple: Star wedding planner Tutera got cold feet

NEW YORK (AP)—A couple says celebrity party planner David Tutera jilted them by dropping out of their lavish Singapore wedding with only about 10 days to go.

Molecular biologist Melissa Chin and information technology consultant Steve Choi filed a lawsuit against Tutera on Friday in New York City. He disputes the couple's claims.

The Massachusetts couple say they paid Tutera at least $265,000 and even had a breed of orchid designed in his honor. But they say he didn't fulfill orders for the bride's bouquet and other items.

A Tutera spokeswoman says he was told not to come because the wedding fund had run dry.

The couple married as planned in August.

Tutera hosts "My Fair Wedding" on the WE TV network. His clients have included TV personality Star Jones.

In this undated TV publicity photo released by WE TV, David Tutera, a celebrity wedding planner and host of "My Fair Wedding" on the WE TV network, is shown.

AP

Marilyn Monroe buff wins US drag queen pageant

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP)—A Marilyn Monroe buff in a 30,000-rhinestone dress has been named the winner of the 2010 Miss'd America Pageant.

More than 1,200 people packed Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on Sunday for the drag queen show and nonprofit fundraiser, returning after a five-year hiatus.

TV personality Carson Kressley hosted the event, which featured seven contestants who competed in evening wear, talent and interviews.

Miss'd America began in 1993, always the day after the Miss America Pageant. It ended when Miss America left Atlantic City in 2005.

"Michelle Dupree," whose real name is Scott Cooper, won. He modeled his sparkly attire after Marilyn Monroe.

Captain of 'Deadliest Catch' ship suffers stroke

SEATTLE (AP)—The Seattle-based captain of the "Deadliest Catch" fishing vessel Cornelia Marie has been flown to Anchorage after suffering a stroke while the boat was in port at St. Paul Island, Alaska.

According to the vessel's Web site, Capt. Phil Harris was stricken Friday night. Harris was flown to Anchorage and underwent surgery over the weekend. His sons, Josh and Jake, joined him there.

The Web site account says it may be some time before "anything substantial" is known about Harris' condition.

The Discovery Channel reality show depicts the crab fishing industry in the dangerous waters off Alaska.

The Web site reports a family friend, Derek Ray, has flown to St. Paul to take over the role of relief skipper for the rest of the opilio crab season.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Grammy Awards US ratings are best in 6 years

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammys have made sweet music in the ratings, with the show's biggest TV audience in six years. Preliminary Nielsen figures Monday show the CBS broadcast attracted 25.8 million viewers. That would be the annual music award show's highest ratings since 2004. "The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards" logged a year-to-year viewer boost of more than a third and dominated network rivals Sunday night. Final Nielsen ratings figures are expected Tuesday.

France honors actors Jim Carrey and EwaMcGregor

PARIS (AP)—France has honored actors Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor by naming them knights in the prestigious National Order of Arts and Letters. The two are in Paris to promote their upcoming gay romance, "I Love You Phillip Morris." At Monday's ceremony, French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand declared, "I love you Jim Carrey! I love you Ewan McGregor!" He added that French moviegoers feel the same. The film is based on a true story. Carrey plays a con man who meets the love of his life (McGregor) in prison, then comes up with elaborate escapes and masquerades to free himself and his man.

British author calls for assisted suicide panel

LONDON (AP)—Best-selling British fantasy author Terry Pratchett says he believes an assisted suicide panel should be set up to help Britons who want to kill themselves. Pratchett, one of the country's most-read writers, says his proposed panel would allow suicidal Britons to make their case for why they should be allowed to die. The 61-year-old suffers from early-onset Alzheimer's and has advocated for assisted suicide in the past. His comments—widely publicized Monday—come after two high-profile cases have reignited debate on the issue. In one, a mother was convicted of murder for giving her brain-damaged son an overdose. In another, a mother was cleared of attempted murder for helping her paralyzed daughter end her life.

Danica Patrick to appear on 'CSI: NY'

NEW YORK (AP)—Danica Patrick will guest star on "CSI: NY" as the top competitor of a racing star who dies under suspicious circumstances. Patrick is scheduled to appear on the episode airing Feb. 10 on the network CBS. Antonio Sabato Jr. plays the racing great who dies in a car explosion on the streets of Manhattan two days before a race as the result of car tampering.

Publicist: Kristen Bell, Dax Shepard are engaged

NEW YORK (AP)—Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard are engaged. Bell's publicist, Marcel Pariseau, confirmed the couple's engagement but said Monday that no other details are available. The 29-year-old Bell and 35-year-old Shepard appear in the romantic comedy "When in Rome." The actress was a presenter at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday. Her TV credits include "Heroes" and "Veronica Mars."

Officials lose bid to sue author Grisham over book

DENVER (AP)—Three public officials involved in a 1982 murder case cannot sue best-selling author John Grisham for his book describing how the wrong men were convicted, a U.S. court ruled. The federal appeals court in Denver ruled that three cannot revive their libel lawsuit against Grisham and two other writers. Grisham's 2006 book on the case, "The Innocent Man," chronicled the slaying of an Oklahoma cocktail waitress and the wrongful convictions of Dennis Fritz and Ron Williamson. The other two writers who were sued also wrote about the case. Investigator Gary Rogers, county prosecutor William Peterson and criminalist Melvin Hett said the writers defamed them and inflicted emotional distress.

Elton John joins 'Next Fall' B'way producing team

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway's latest trend—celebrity producers. Elton John says he and his partner, David Furnish, have joined the producing team of "Next Fall," a Broadway-bound play by Geoffrey Nauffts. "After fulfilling experiences bringing new musicals to the stage, it was seeing this inspiring and timely new work that attracted us to take on our first play," Elton and Furnish said Monday. "Next Fall" concerns the contentious relationship between two gay men and questions of faith and religion. It opens March 11 after a successful run last year off-Broadway. Among the recent high-profile producers of Broadway shows are rap superstar Jay-Z, Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith. All three are involved in "Fela!" Elton wrote the music for two of Broadway's current hit musicals, "Billy Elliot" and "The Lion King."

Wife wants to leave husband but remain part of his family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Harry," and I had a good marriage for 25 years, but we have grown apart and have agreed to divorce when our child finishes college. We just don't have a lot in common anymore. Harry is on the road a lot, and I have my own business.

My problem is I have fallen in love with Harry's cousin "Cyrus." We met 25 years ago at my sister-in-law's house and were instantly attracted. My mother-in-law reintroduced us five years ago so we could put together a business deal, and we became close. Cyrus is successful, and he's generous to me and my child. I have been secretly in love with him all these years, and now he has fallen in love with me, too.

Because I plan to leave Harry does not mean I want to leave his family. I have a wonderful mother-in-law and great sisters-in-law, and I love being a part of their family. I enjoy the weddings, family reunions and even the memorial services.

When I divorce Harry and marry Cyrus, I plan to remain part of the family, but my sisters-in-law do not approve, and they no longer want to continue our friendship. If it doesn't bother my soon-to-be-ex-husband, why should my continuing to attend family reunions bother them? And will time heal all wounds?

GOING CRAZY IN ALABAMA

DEAR GOING CRAZY: Allow me to offer a clue. Harry's sisters appear to be traditional in their beliefs and may consider you to be an adulteress who has wronged their brother. If the breach can be healed, Harry will have to explain to them that the divorce is also his idea because your marriage has been over for years. However, if your soon-to-be-ex is unwilling to step forward, then I seriously doubt time will heal this wound, so please don't hold your breath expecting any invitations when their clan gathers.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Ever since my father died 15 years ago, my mother has pursued her children's friends and made them her own. Example: I live in another state and have had a best friend, "Anne," for 20 years. Mom has gotten to know Anne quite well over the years, through me. She now calls Anne long distance, invites her to come and stay with her (without me), and considers the two of them best friends.

Last week when I talked to Anne, I learned that Mother will be joining us on a girls' trip I had planned with my closest friends. Mother has done this with my siblings' friends, too—taking them on trips with her or inviting them to visit. Since Dad's death, she has severed most of their old friendships. Now, aside from our friends, her only friends are her secretary and some of her employees.

I'm having a hard time with this because I can no longer be open about my mother to Anne. Mom's relationship with Anne has changed my relationship with my friend, and I resent it. Is this normal?

COMPETING WITH MOM

DEAR COMPETING: No, but has it occurred to you that after your father's death, their friends may have ended their relationship with your mother? According to my mail, it happens quite often because a widow may be perceived as a third wheel or even a threat.

Your mother may be competing with you (and your siblings), or it could be a desperate attempt to be more involved in your lives.

Does Anne know how uncomfortable this three-way has made you feel? If so, how did she respond when you told her? If you have discussed it, then it's time to recognize that the problem isn't entirely your mother, and you may be mad at the wrong person.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL MOM, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME GETTING IN TROUBLE ANY MORE.
OH REALLY?
YUP. SEE, I MADE THESE DUPLICATES OF MYSELF, AND THEY WERE THE ONES WHO WERE BAD, NOT ME.
UH HUH...
BUT NOW LOOK! I TRANSMOGRIFIED THEM!
OH CALVIN! DON'T CARRY WORMS THROUGH THE HOUSE! OUT! OUT!
WELL THERE! YOU GOT ME IN TROUBLE ONE LAST TIME. I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY!
YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO PUT US ON YOUR DAD'S DINNER PLATE TONIGHT BEFORE WE GO?
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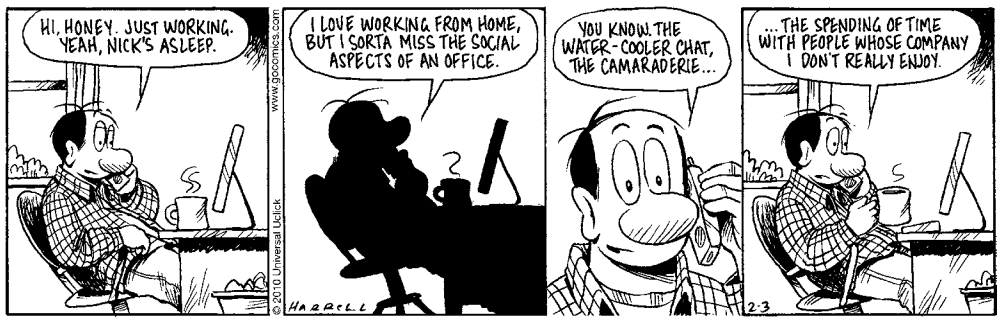
WATTERSON
2-2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HI, HONEY. JUST WORKING. YEAH, NICK'S ASLEEP.
I LOVE WORKING FROM HOME, BUT I SORTA MISS THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF AN OFFICE.
YOU KNOW THE WATER-COOLER CHAT, THE CAMARADERIE...
...THE SPENDING OF TIME WITH PEOPLE WHOSE COMPANY I DON'T REALLY ENJOY.
www.gocomics.com
©2010 Universal Uclick
HARRELL
2-3

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU'RE OUT OF ORDER.
NO, YOU'RE OUT OF ORDER!!
DO YOU WANT TO BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT?
DO YOU WANT TO BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF GURT?
STOP MOCKING ME!
STOP MOCKING ME!!
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
2-3
GLENN MCCOY

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

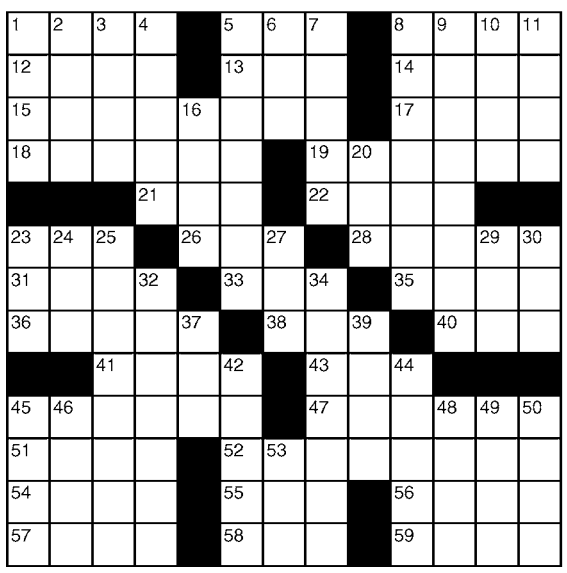
ACROSS
1 Vicinity
5 Inhabitant (Abbr.)
8 Detail
12 Paper quantity
13 Kanga's kid
14 Undressed
15 No. 51 on the table
17 Unforeseen problem
18 Sarajevo's land
19 Baffler
21 Frequently
22 Tango moves
23 Antonym (Abbr.)
26 Teeny tale
28 Attack dog, e.g.
31 Island dance
33 Help
35 Ms. Moore
36 "The final frontier"
38 Support system?
40 Gist
41 Brass instrument
43 Mischief-maker
45 Scales
47 Buccaneer
51 Top-notch
52 No. 1 on the table
54 Whirled
55 Listener
56 Monetary supply
57 Fixes a skirt
58 Agent
59 Collections

DOWN
1 Bedouin
2 Nevada city
3 Dines on
4 Acid type
5 Zagreb's land
6 Charged bit
7 Tinkered (with)
8 Flat
9 No. 74 on the table
10 Cheese choice
11 Ginormous
16 Irk
20 Penpoint
23 Surprise cries
24 Young seal
25 No. 78 on the table
27 Chest protector
29 Ostrich's cousin
30 Umbrella-frame part
32 Keen senses of judgment
34 Hang on the line, maybe
37 Recede
39 Eastern bigwig
42 Fireplace residue
44 Campus staffers
45 Money
46 Bound along
48 Chills and fever
49 Bivouac setup
50 Make — meet
53 Mouth, slangily

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	O	A	P	■	F	L	Y	■	D	A	N	G
O	A	H	U	■	L	A	O	■	O	R	E	O
S	T	E	P	D	O	W	N	■	W	E	A	R
O	H	M	■	U	R	N	■	S	N	A	R	E
■	■	■	U	S	A	■	Y	O	U	■	■	■
A	G	E	N	T	■	Y	A	W	N	I	N	G
L	O	R	D	■	C	A	P	■	D	R	U	B
B	O	R	E	D	O	M	■	M	E	A	N	S
■	■	■	R	O	W	■	H	E	R	■	■	■
A	B	A	F	T	■	B	O	A	■	A	D	S
W	A	C	O	■	F	O	O	T	S	T	E	P
L	I	M	O	■	D	O	E	■	P	O	L	E
S	T	E	T	■	A	N	Y	■	A	M	I	D

Yesterday's answer 2-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isla Fisher, 34; Kathleen Kinmont, 45; Morgan Fairchild, 60; Fran Tarkenton, 70

Happy Birthday: You will have to keep your emotions out of the mix this year to avoid foolish mistakes that will cost you financially and emotionally. Consider all aspects before making a decision that will affect your personal and professional future. Love and romance are in the stars but must not dictate what you do. Don't be afraid to change your mind if something isn't working. Your numbers are 7, 13, 16, 20, 26, 34, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Work within a group and do your best to be the coordinator. The resolutions you make should bring out the strengths in the people around you. Your strong beliefs and strategy will inspire and encourage. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It won't hurt to take a different approach to the way you handle the situations that arise. Instead of taking a back seat, discuss problems head on and you will find solutions. Take action. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make some moves toward a better profession or a job that will enable you to use your skills and talents to the fullest. Your future is about to take a turn for the better. A different geographical location looks promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your inhibitions go and your creativity take over in all that you pursue. You will get a favorable response from the people who can make a difference to your future. Don't procrastinate when the possibilities are endless. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Move in a direction that will help you map out a better future. A partnership can offer you greater creative freedom and can result in prosperity. Someone from your past can help you out. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): There is a lot riding on the decisions you make regarding your vocation or your future business choices. Whether it's a new job, retirement or going back to school, you can make it work for you if you have a plan that suits your current life position. Talk to someone with experience. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Taking the lazy route will only lead to depression. You have to get involved with people who are moving in the fast lane and looking for advancement in all aspects of life. The more connected you are, the better you will do. Love is in the stars; make the most of it. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): This is not the time to wait around for others to catch up. Be willing to let go of the people who are not contributing and engage with the ones who are. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Opportunities are present but you have to be willing to make the effort. It may be time for you to check out a different occupation that will bring greater satisfaction. Love is looking good but don't let it cost you. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Now is not the time to make an important personal decision. You can't even trust your own judgment, let alone someone else's. You are emotionally uncertain and will not benefit if you follow your heart. Sit and observe. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Believe in yourself. You can make a connection with someone who has plenty to offer financially, personally and emotionally. Joining forces will keep you moving in the right direction. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Reflection is the answer. Readdress a situation you have experienced in the past and you will realize what you have to do now. Reconnect with people from your past who were always there to help you. Talks will lead to new beginnings and greater hope. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are interesting and imaginative and know how to get things done. You are industrious, ambitious and energetic.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	2			5	1	6	8
9			1		6			4
6			3					5
1			2					7
	9	4	8				5	
			4				3	
			7			5		
			6			9		
	8	3				4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	7	8	2	5	6	9	3
8	2	9	3	1	6	5	7	4
6	5	3	7	9	4	1	2	8
2	9	6	5	4	3	8	1	7
4	7	5	1	6	8	9	3	2
3	1	8	9	7	2	4	6	5
9	8	4	6	3	7	2	5	1
7	6	2	4	5	1	3	8	9
5	3	1	2	8	9	7	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUPER MARIO BROS. **Solution: 5 letters**

K	L	P	F	L	Y	I	N	G	N	I	N	N	U	R
T	C	I	R	E	S	W	O	B	T	R	A	V	E	L
O	O	O	V	O	W	O	S	T	N	I	O	P	X	E
O	N	J	L	(E)	(M)	(A)	(G)	I	G	I	U	L	U	K
H	S	U	W	B	S	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	L	C
S	O	M	A	R	I	O	R	M	O	D	E	T	E	O
E	L	P	T	F	L	O	W	E	R	L	E	S	D	L
L	E	I	E	R	D	K	R	S	V	R	C	S	E	N
C	S	N	R	N	C	U	T	B	C	O	P	L	F	U
A	A	G	O	A	T	A	R	E	R	W	R	E	E	R
T	R	K	T	N	R	O	S	E	M	A	A	V	A	E
S	C	T	E	M	T	S	T	R	O	P	W	E	T	G
B	A	V	A	H	I	R	O	S	H	I	O	L	E	I
O	D	N	E	T	N	I	N	V	E	N	T	E	D	H
A	E	R	E	Y	A	L	P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S

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Adventure, Arcade, Attack, Block, Bowser, Brawl, Brother, Classic, Consoles, Defeated, Deluxe, Flower, Flying, Game, Goomba, Hiroshi, Invented, Jumping, Kondo, Levels, Lives, Luigi, Mario, Mode, Nintendo, Obstacles, Over, Player, Points, Ports, Princess, Running, Score, Secret, Shigeru, Shoot, Starman, Tempo, Travel, Unlock, Warp, Water, Worlds

Yesterday's Answer: Quality

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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WHATZIT Solution:
Head in the clouds

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HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System (PSS), Human Resources Office shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-052** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **LEGAL COUNSEL (Amendment / Re-Announcement I)**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$40,000.00 - $60,000.00**
Opening Date: **January 11, 2010** Closing Date: **February 11, 2010**
Location: **PSS – BOARD OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the CNMI bar or a member of a state bar and qualify to practice law in the CNMI. The applicant must also have at least three (3) years legal work experience, preferably for government entities handling government contract and/or education issues.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2)LAW SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER (S); (5) RESUME; (6) CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING FROM BAR ASSOCIATION; AND (7) WRITING SAMPLE. COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

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Kobe gets Lakers' scoring mark in loss to Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 44 points, passing Jerry West as the Los Angeles Lakers' career scorer, but it wasn't enough as the Memphis Grizzlies got 22 points and 17 rebounds from Zach Randolph to defeat the Lakers 95-93 on Monday night.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 25 points, and his 3-pointer with 29.5 seconds left helped Memphis end its two-game losing streak.

Ron Artest's 3-point attempt from the right side bounced high off the rim as the horn sounded, snapping the Lakers' four-game winning streak.

Bryant passed West's mark on a breakaway dunk in the third quarter. Bryant made 16 of 28 shots, including 4 of 7 outside the arc. Artest added 18 points, while Pau Gasol had 10 points.

Lester Hudson had 13 points for Memphis, and Marc Gasol finished with 11 points and 13 rebounds for Memphis.

While Bryant got the franchise record for scoring, the loss prevented Lakers coach Phil Jackson from passing Pat Riley as the winningest coach in regular-season games for Los Angeles. The two are tied at 533.

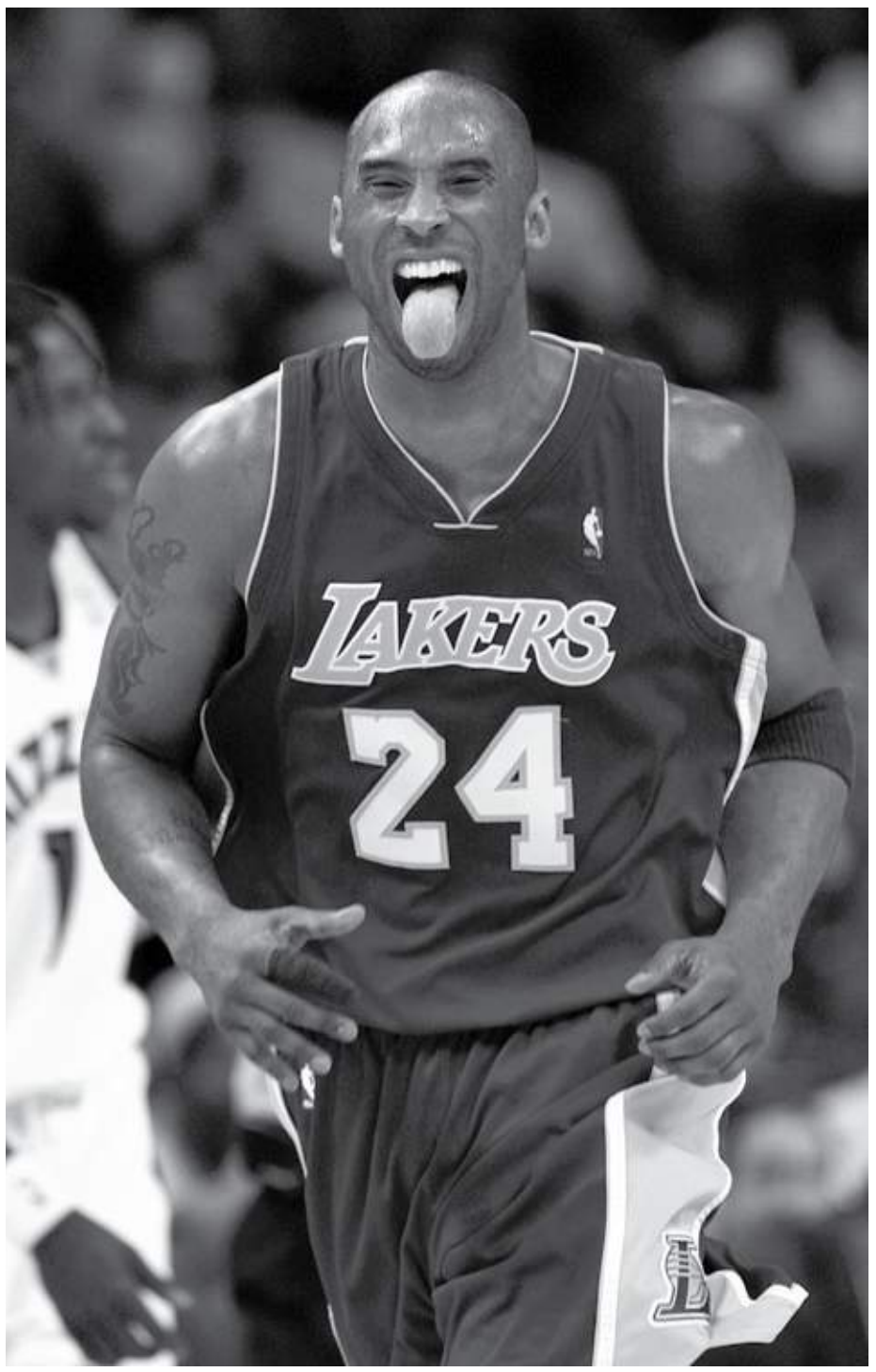
The game was tied at 88, when Memphis ran the shot clock to near the end before Randolph made a 22-footer for a 90-88 lead with 1:08 left. His two free throws extended the lead to 92-88. Bryant scored on a drive before Gay's 3-pointer with 29.5 seconds left gave Memphis a 95-90 lead, and the Grizzlies held on.

Memphis got an unexpected offensive boost from Hudson, the rookie shooting guard who was picked up Jan. 8 off waivers from the Celtics.

Hudson had 11 points—his career high—in the second quarter as Memphis extended the lead to 11 before carrying a 52-50 lead into the half as the Lakers outscored Memphis 11-2 to close the half.

Memphis extended the lead to 11 again at the start of the third quarter as the Lakers missed eight of their first nine shots. Meanwhile, Randolph and Gasol were effective inside.

But the Lakers narrowed the deficit again. Bryant's dunk to pass West's mark in the third quarter was part of a stretch where Los Angeles closed the quarter on an 18-6 run.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant reacts after making a three pointer against Memphis Grizzlies to become the Lakers all-time points leader during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Tenn., Monday, Feb. 1, 2010.

Jazz 104, Mavericks 92

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 18 points and 15 assists to help Utah extend its longest winning streak of the season to six games.

The Jazz held Dallas scoreless for more than three minutes during an 11-2 run that put Utah in control in the fourth quarter.

Paul Millsap had 25 points for the Jazz, who had seven offensive rebounds in the final quarter while outscoring the Mavs 27-16 to clinch the three-game season series. Andrei Kirilenko added 13 points.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 28 points, but had just two in the fourth. The Mavericks have lost three straight for the first time this season and their lead over Utah for third place in the Western Conference is down to a half-game.

Jason Terry had 19 points and eight assists and Jason Kidd added 11 points and nine assists for Dallas.

Nuggets 112, Kings 109, OT

At Denver, Arron Afflalo hit a baseline jump shot with 18.4 seconds left in overtime as Denver rallied from a 17-point deficit in the third quarter to beat Sacramento.

Kenyon Martin had 24 points and 12 rebounds and Chauncey Billups had 23 points for the Nuggets.

The Nuggets, playing a fifth straight game without All-Star forward Carmelo Anthony (ankle), also got 15 points from Ty Lawson and 14 points from Nene. Afflalo had six of his 12 points in the extra period.

Spencer Hawes had 23 points and Kevin Martin had 22 for Sacramento, which lost for the third time in four OT games. The Kings lost their 10th road game in a row.

Suns 109, Hornets 100

At New Orleans, Amare Stoudemire scored 25 points and Grant Hill hit two late key baskets to help Phoenix get the win.

The Hornets played their second straight game without All-Star Chris Paul, who is out indefinitely with a left knee injury that coach Jeff Bower said could require surgery.

Channing Frye added 20 points for Phoenix. Robin Lopez had 18 points and Steve Nash finished with 18 points and 12 assists.

Marcus Thornton led New Orleans with 25 points. Darren Collison, Paul's replacement at point guard, had 16 points and 14 assists.

Bucks 97, Heat 81

At Miami, Andrew Bogut had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Carlos Delfino finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds as Milwaukee beat Miami for the second time in three nights.

Charlie Bell and Hakim Warrick each scored 12 for the Bucks, who outscored Miami 54-27 over the final 19 1/2 minutes of the first half.

Dwyane Wade led the Heat with 23 points, including single-handedly scoring the first 11 of the game.

Michael Beasley scored 16 and Udonis Haslem finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which has lost four of its past five.

Celtics 99, Wizards 88

At Washington, Kevin Garnett's 19 points led six Celtics in double figures as Boston limited Washington to 2-for-18 shooting in the fourth quarter.

Boston ended a three-game skid and prevented Washington from compiling its first three-game winning streak since April 2008.

Boston outscored Washington 25-10 in the final quarter, even though Paul Pierce sat out the period after hurting his left foot.

Rajon Rondo had 17 points and 12 assists for Boston. Caron Butler led Washington with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Pierce said he thinks he has a mild sprain and will have it X-rayed.

Trail Blazers 98, Bobcats 79

At Postland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 17 points, and Nicolas Batum and Jerryd Bayless had 15 points each as Portland beat Charlotte.

Portland had six players score in double figures. Rudy Fernandez scored 11 points, while Martell Webster and Dante Cunningham had 10. Andre Miller, who had 52 points on Saturday, had eight points and 10 assists for the Blazers.

Charlotte, playing its fifth road game in seven days, was led by Steven Jackson's 23 points. Gerald Wallace had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats.

McCarron refuses to back down

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ping chairman John Solheim reminded the PGA Tour on Monday that it cannot make a separate rule to ban Ping Eye2 wedges, the 20-year-old clubs that led Scott McCarron to claim Phil Mickelson is "cheating" by using them.

Hours after McCarron said he would "not be silenced" over the grooves controversy, the PGA Tour's situation became a little more muddled with Solheim's gentle reminder.

Mickelson was among at least four players at Torrey Pines who used the Ping wedges, which have square grooves.

The USGA has a new regulation this year that shrinks the volume and softens the edges of the grooves. However, the Ping wedges made before April 1, 1990, are approved for competition because of a 1990 settlement from Ping's lawsuit against the USGA.

McCarron

The PGA Tour said in a statement over the weekend that it would monitor the situation, noting it could adopt a "local rule" for tournaments that would ban the Ping wedges.

Solheim, however, said under the 1993 agreement with the PGA Tour, the tour could not adopt a separate rule if it differed from the USGA.

"The recent statement from the PGA Tour and several PGA Tour players that they could invoked a 'local rule' required us to remind the PGA Tour of the terms of the agreement," Solheim said in a statement.

Then, the chairman and CEO of Ping appeared to leave room for a compromise.

"While I fully expect the PGA Tour to honor this agreement, I'm willing to discuss a workable solution to this matter that would benefit the game and respect the role innovation has played over the long history of golf," Solheim said.

Solheim is the son of Ping founder Karsten Solheim, one of golf's foremost innovators who spent millions battling the USGA and PGA Tour over the square grooves in its popular Ping Eye2 model.

PGA Tour spokesman Ty Votaw declined comment, noting commissioner Tim Finchem would have a press conference Tuesday in Los Angeles after a players meeting.

McCarron and Mickelson, meanwhile, struck no conciliatory tones.

McCarron, who has won three times in his 16-year career, issued a statement Monday in which he wanted to clarify that while he believes "it's cheating" for Mickelson or anyone else to use the Ping wedges, "I never called Phil Mickelson a cheater."

"That being said, I want my fans, sponsors and most importantly, my fellow players, to know that I will not be silenced and I will continue my efforts to get the groove issue resolved," McCarron said.

Mickelson, the world's No. 2 player, had said over the weekend he felt "publicly slandered" and hinted at legal action if the PGA Tour does not discipline McCarron for his choice of words.

"Again, everybody has their opinions and so forth, and it's healthy to talk about it," Mickelson said Saturday. "But when you cross that line and slander someone publicly, that's when the tour needs to step in—or someone else."

John Daly and Dean Wilson were the first players to use the Ping wedges this year, at the Sony Open in Hawaii. Others who have had the Ping wedge in play include Hunter Mahan, whose caddie found a copper wedge with square grooves.

An industry official said three-time major winner Padraig Harrington showed up at Riviera on Monday with two sets of Ping wedges, including one set that was made before 1990 and would be approved for play. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on Harrington's behalf.

Mickelson did not say if he would continue to play the wedge, although he made it clear at Torrey Pines the decision would not be based on what other players think.

Sports Illustrated reported on its Web site Monday that Randy Peterson, Callaway Golf's director of fitting and instruction, said Mickelson's Ping wedge imparted as much as 25 percent more spin than any of the Callaway wedges with new grooves.

McCarron directed some of his frustration at the USGA and the PGA Tour for knowing the potential for this controversy before it blew up on them last week at Torrey Pines. He said the focus should shift from a small number of players using the Ping Eye2 wedges to the majority of players "who chose to do the right thing."

"I am still appalled by the fact that any player would make the choice to put this controversial wedge in play, and I stand by my previous comments," he said.

Solheim said the controversy did not catch Ping by surprise. He said when the USGA proposed its new groove regulation two years ago, Ping reminded officials of the 1990 settlement. He said he advised the USGA and PGA Tour in a letter dated July 31, 2007, that "what is happening on the PGA Tour today was very much a possibility."

Soggy start to Super Bowl week

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Rain drove the New Orleans Saints indoors Monday. The NFL scrambled to move Tuesday's media day activities under cover. And tourism officials tried to shrug off the public-relations blow of a soggy start to Super Bowl week.

"Sometimes you need a break from the sun," said Nicki Grossman of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Everybody all over the country has weather. And you don't have to shovel anything that has fallen on us."

Even so, the less-than-Super weather—daylong rain blanketing the region—stirred unpleasant memories of the last time the NFL title game came to town three years ago. That was the first time rain fell on a Super Bowl, and it continued throughout the game, chasing some fans away at halftime and sending others into concourses to watch on television as the Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears.

"The same weather," Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning said. "I don't know what that is—the Colts bringing rain to Miami."

Although this is the middle of South Florida's dry season, steady light rain also fell during Sunday night's Pro Bowl in Miami.

The Colts and Saints landed Monday and were greeted by their Pro Bowl teammates—seven from Indianapolis and seven from New Orleans—who watched the all-star game from the sideline. One Pro Bowler was Manning, who said he didn't mind making the trip the day before most of the Colts arrived.

"I got to fly on a private plane with six of my best friends and teammates," Manning said. "We had Ruth's Chris Steak House food on the plane, took a private escape down to Miami, shook a few hands, did a wave, did one interview and made $45,000. I can think of some worse things to put yourself through."

The forecast called for a 30 percent chance of showers Tuesday, prompting the media day switch. And, there is at least a slight chance of rain every day the rest of the week, with a 20-percent chance Sunday.

"We'll get prepared for it just in case we have to deal with some of the same issues we had to deal with last time," Colts coach Jim Caldwell said. "It looks like it may rain during the course of the week, so maybe we'll have an opportunity to practice in it. But our game plan won't change."

Media day will, however. Instead of conducting interviews on the field at Sun Life Stadium, the NFL will hold them in an indoor concourse on the club level.

All players and coaches from the Saints and Colts will still be available for interviews.

"This should not be a major problem," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said. "It just will look different."

The Saints' first practice Monday was moved 30 miles north from the University of Miami's outdoor fields to the indoor bubble at the Miami Dolphins' complex. The starting time was pushed back while equipment was moved from one site to the other.

"It is what it is," said quarterback Drew Brees, whose Saints have hurricanes in their history. "Weather the storm—we know how to do that."

Rain also affected preparation of the playing field, Signora said.

"I wouldn't say anything is delayed," he said. "I'd say work continues, and weather is one more factor built into the preparation."

The weather made South Florida's daunting traffic even more sluggish. The team hotels and practice sites are separated by drives of up to an hour—sometimes more—and while the Colts and Saints are whisked about with police escorts, getting around is more arduous for fans, volunteers, league officials and the media.

"We're a regional effort, and we need to spread it around," said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl host committee. "It'll be judged afterward whether it really works out."

Tourism officials said the wet weather didn't tarnish the Pro Bowl, which was moved from Hawaii as a one-year experiment and drew the largest crowd for the game since 1959. But the stadium was half empty by the third quarter.

The Super Bowl is in Miami for the 10th time, the most of any city. While the rain may not dampen visitors' enthusiasm for South Florida, the NFL says the Dolphins' 22-year-old stadium needs upgrades, raising concerns about the region's attractiveness as a site of future games.

The Dolphins have proposed adding a roof that would cover fans as part of stadium improvements that could cost $250 million or more. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says the upgrades would help South Florida remain competitive in bidding for future Super Bowls.

"They're saying, `Your whiskers are getting a little long,'" Barreto said. "I don't think we ought to fall asleep and sit on our laurels. We should take a good look and see if there is some way to partner with the Dolphins and figure out how to get something done."

South Florida leaders are expected to seek public money for the project. But at the moment, Barreto said, they're focused on praying for some sunshine.

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning

Saints quarterback Drew Brees

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS VERSUS NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

	Regular season	Playoff record
Colts	441-390-7	19-18
Saints	275-378-5	4-6

Stadiums
Memorial Stadium, Baltimore (1953-83)
RCA Dome (1984-present)
Known as Hoosier Dome 1984-93

NFL championships
1958, 1959, 1968, 1970, 2006
First Super Bowl held in 1967

Playoff appearances
1958, 1959, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1987, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

Jan. 23, 1953 Franchise starts as Baltimore Colts
Sept. 27, 1953 Beat Chicago Bears, 13-9, in first game
Oct. 28, 1956 Backup quarterback Johnny Unitas plays in first game
1957 First winning season, 7-5
Dec. 28, 1958 First playoff appearance; defeat N.Y. Giants, 23-17
1959, 1964, 1967 NFL most valuable player, quarterback Johnny Unitas
1968 Quarterback Earl Morrall steps in for injured Unitas, leads Colts to Super Bowl; NFL MVP
Jan. 12, 1969 Super Bowl III; defeated by N.Y. Jets, 16-7
1970 Shift to the AFC as NFL, AFL merge
Jan. 17, 1971 Super Bowl V; beat Dallas Cowboys, 16-13
Jan. 9, 1977 Owner Robert Irsay says he's been approached by Indianapolis about moving team
Dec. 18, 1983 Unbeknownst to team or fans, Colts play final game in Baltimore
March 28, 1984 Move to Indianapolis
1987 First winning season in Indianapolis, 9-6; lose divisional playoff, 38-21
1991 Finish season 1-15; Ted Marchibroda hired for 1992 season
1998 Sign quarterback Peyton Manning
Jan. 1, 2000 Lose first playoff game at RCA Dome, 19-16
Jan. 22, 2002 Tony Dungy hired as head coach
Jan. 4, 2003 In first season, Dungy leads Colts to AFC wild-card game, loses 41-0
Feb. 4, 2007 Win Super Bowl XLI over Chicago Bears
Jan. 12, 2009 Tony Dungy announces retirement; Jim Caldwell named head coach
Jan. 24, 2010 Defeat N.Y. Jets to advance to Super Bowl XLIV

Stadiums
Tulane Stadium (1967-74)
Louisiana Superdome (1974-2004, 2006-present)
Played at temporary stadiums in 2005 due to damage from Hurricane Katrina

Playoff appearances
1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 2000, 2006, 2009

Nov. 1, 1966 NFL awards franchise to New Orleans
Sept. 17, 1967 Saints first regular season game
Nov. 8, 1970 Tom Dempsey kicks NFL record-breaking 63-yard field
1971 Draft QB Archie Manning, Peyton Manning's father
Aug. 9, 1975 First game in Superdome
1980 Lose first 14 games; fans attend games with paper bags on their heads and call themselves "Aints"
1985 Current owner Tom Benson acquires franchise
1987 First winning record in 20 years (12-3)
1989 Third consecutive winning record
1996 Mike Ditka hired as head coach
1999 Ditka and most of the coaching staff fired at end of season due to 3-13 record
Dec. 30, 2000 First postseason win, NFL Wild Card against St. Louis; lose NFC Divisional to Minnesota
2005 Finish season 3-13; no home games due to damage to Superdome from Hurricane Katrina
Sept. 26, 2006 Return to Superdome home opener against Atlanta; beat St. Louis in Divisional Playoffs for second postseason win; later lose to Chicago
Jan. 24, 2010 Defeat Minnesota in overtime to advance to their first Super Bowl XLIV

Source: National Football League, Indianapolis Colts, New Orleans Saints, MCT Photo Service

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Graphic: Melina Yingling

UBA aims for bigger men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Unified Basketball Association is gearing up for a bigger and better men's league this season after the successful staging of its inaugural competition at the Garapan Basketball Court.

UBA president James Lee said they are looking to have a maximum of 12 teams for the 2010 edition of the men's league. He added there's a possibility that the league will open earlier to have teams play more games.

"We will always look for ways to give basketball fans better leagues and good competition," Lee said.

The first edition of the UBA men's league, dubbed 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League, drew eight teams and started in December. It ran for only two months and had Prospects sweeping Ol'Aces in the short best-of-three title series. Prospects won Game 1, 75-68, and Game 2, 77-74.

In the regular season, the league only had a round-robin format with Advance sweeping all its seven games to win the pennant. Ol'Aces finished second with a 6-1 slate, Noni Saipan came in third with a 5-2 mark, followed by Prospects (4-3), Diamond Fixers (3-4), Hoopaholics (3-4), Cholos (1-6), and Trinity Estate (0-7).

Only six teams made it to the playoffs with Advance and Ol'Aces gaining automatic semis berths. The four other teams, Noni, Prospects, Diamond, and Hoopaholics, battled for the remaining two semis slots.

Prospects marched to the semifinal round, following a 72-69 victory over Hoopaholics. Noni followed suit after edging Diamond in overtime, 74-73, in the first round of the playoffs.

In the semifinals, Prospects stunned pennant champion Advance in overtime, 117-102, to arrange title tiff against Ol'Aces, who downed Noni in the other semis match, 81-66.

Prospects then completed its uphill climb in the league, following a sweep against Ol'Aces. Prospects was awarded the championship trophy and a free entry to next season's competition.

"Overall, the inaugural men's league had a good turnout. There were a lot of exciting games and we hope to have the same, if not better, tough competition later this year," Lee said.

UBA would like to thank the following for making the inaugural men's league a hit: major sponsor Docomo Pacific and title sponsor PTC Miller Lite, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Gold's Gym, Club V, Mariano Chiropractic, Pepsi and Monster, SMG, Power 99, and THE KAT.

"Last but not the least, thank you to all the teams that participated and their team sponsors and more importantly to all UBA supporters, committees, and volunteers who contributed their time to help make this a successful event," Lee added.

Ol'Aces' Dan Barcinas elevates for a layup against Prospects defenders in Game 1 of their title series.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GUAM

From Page 28

other sweep with Haggan winning the men's title and its female spikers beating Isa Masters in the women's finals. In 2008, Team Haggan successfully defended the men's and women's titles after edging Ol'Aces and YoYo's in the finals, respectively.

The previous editions of Jam Attack were under the auspices of Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, which failed to hold the same event last year. This year, it was the Island Volleyball Club that organized the weekend tournament.

Last week's Jam Attack drew 15 teams, nine in the women's and six in the men's.

Saipan's Fanians topped the double-elimination tournament with their 8-2 record. Haggan also finished with an 8-2 mark, but dropped to second place after losing in the tiebreak.

Fanians and Haggan advanced to the crossover semifinals against No Fear and Advance, respectively. Advance was seeded third in the playoff after its 6-4 slate, while No Fear notched the last semis slot, following its 4-6 mark. Advance went on to finish third place.

Tinian's Zack Attack and Go 4 Broke were the two other teams entered in the men's division and finished the tournament with 3-7 and 1-9 marks, respectively.

Team Quality went undefeated in the elimination round of the women's division with its 16-0 slate. Joining Team Quality in the playoffs were Margarita (13-3), Zack Attack (12-4), and Pikan Gaga (9-7). Zack Attack ended up in third place.

The five other teams that played in the women's division were Las Chickas (7-9), Shikakah (5-11), Slammers (5-11), M.V. Girls (3-13), and Silly Girls (2-14).

Trophies, donated by Pacific Amusement's Jim Jebhard were awarded to the Top 3 finishers. Organizers also gave individual awards to the event's top performers.

Haggan's Josh Cruz was named MVP and best spiker, the best setter award went to P.J. Quintanilla, Fanians' Typhoon Saito took the best server award, Ken Borja was named best blocker, and Ray Manahane was chosen best defender.

In the women's division, Team Quality's Lucy Calvo claimed the MVP and best server awards, teammate Meagan Craig took the best setter plum, and Perinne Cruz and Becky Salas, were named best spiker and blocker, respectively.

PACQUIAO

From Page 28

fight of the year, an award that was renamed this year for Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

The John F.X. Condon award for long and meritorious service was given to Jerry Izenberg, who covered boxing and other sports for decades at The Star Ledger in Newark, New Jersey.

Former three-division champion Alexis Arguello was honored posthumously with the Marvin Kohn Award, given to an individual who exemplifies goodwill. The Hall of Famer who eventually became mayor of Managua, Nicaragua, died in July at age 57.

ESPN broadcaster Joe Tessitore won the Sam Taub Award for broadcasting excellence, and Showtime broadcaster Nick Charles and former heavyweight contender George Chuvalo shared the Bill Crawford Award for perseverance in overcoming adversity.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

New Zealand yesterday morning. Ohashi drew first blood with his 6-3 victory, but Heo stole the win after sweeping the last two sets, 6-3, 6-3.

With the victory, Heo advanced to the Round of 16 against Australia's Ben Wagland.

The tiff against the Australian bet today will be an acid test for Heo, as the CNMI netter will be facing the No. 2 seed in the tournament being played at the Scarbro Tennis Centre in Glen Innes, Auckland.

Regardless of the result of his meeting against Wagland, Heo had already surpassed his performance in the same tournament last year. In 2009, Heo bowed out of the competition in Auckland early, losing to No. 7 seed Trent O'Keefee of New Zealand in the first round, 3-6, 3-6.

In his return trip to Auckland, Heo became the only player from the Pacific Oceania Touring Team to survive the first two rounds of the tournament. Heo's teammate, Chris Hargrove of Fiji, lost to Australia's James Frawley, 1-6, 2-6.

New Caledonia's Aymeric Mara, which once dueled Heo in Noumea late last year, won in the first round against New Zealand's Jordan Fleming, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. However, Mara dropped his second round match against No. 12 seed Jack Schipanski of Australia, 4-6, 4-6.

Joining Heo in the Round of 16 are top seed and New Zealand's Ben McLachlan, No. 3 seed Jaden Grinter, No. 4 Adam Lee, No. 15 Anton Bettink, No. 16 David Clifford, and No. 6 Jamie Eccleton, No. 5 seed and Taipei's Chieh-Fu Wang, No. 11 and Thailand's Natasith Luesantia, Japan's Yurtaro Matsuzaki, No. 12 and Australia's Schipanski, Nick Kyrgios, and Blake Mott, No. 9 seed and Hong Kong's Kwun Ho James, and No. 10 and Pakistan's Samir Iftikhar.

Heo also played in the men's doubles and he and teammate Artem Vassiliev won their first game against Mara and Johan Citre, 6-2, 3-6, 10-6. Heo and Vassiliev were pitted against Hong Kong's Siu-Fai Kelvin Lam and Long-Fung Vincent Yau in the second round and lost, 3-6, 4-6.

SAIPAL

From Page 28

sixth inning to give his team enough cushion en route to an 11-run win. Third baseman J.D. Dikito also recorded three RBIs, built on a 2-for-3 stint at bat. He scored two runs, including a three-run homer at the top of the first inning.

Outfielder Jayson Hayes and shortstop Clifton Sillil added two RBIs after going perfect at the plate, hitting 3-for-3 each. Sillil also scored three runs and made two doubles, while Hayes had three runs and a two-run homer in the fifth inning.

Center fielder Leonardo Salalila was the lone bright spot for G-Ballers' offense, tallying three RBIs. He went 1-for-2 at the plate, drilling a three-run homer at the bottom of the fifth inning. Extra hitter Ben Villanueva was the only other G-Ballers player to record an RBI in the game, making a sacrifice fly in the fourth inning. No G-Ballers slugger made more than two hits, as the team went only 7-for-23 at the plate for a batting average of .304.

SaiPal took control of the match after shutting out G-Ballers in the first three innings.

In the first inning, the best that G-Ballers could do was advanced to first off Sillil's error. In the next two innings, G-Ballers' first three batters in each inning were thrown out.

In the fourth inning, G-Ballers made it to the scoreboard and cut SaiPal's lead to five, 1-6, with Villanueva's sacrifice fly driving leadoff batter and catcher Isaiah Lizama home. However, Hayes hit a two-run homer at the top of the fifth and second baseman Hector Efraim had an RBI single to make it a 9-1 count.

G-Ballers threatened a comeback in the fifth inning after Salalila's three-run homer, bringing the lead down to five anew, 4-9. However, Damian answered with his own three-run homer at the top of the sixth to widen the gap, again and Saipal claimed the victory via a 10-run mercy rule at the bottom of the sixth after throwing out G-Ballers' first three batters.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	16	.652	—
Toronto	26	22	.542	5
New York	18	29	.383	12 1/2
Philadelphia	16	31	.340	14 1/2
New Jersey	4	42	.087	26

Southeast Division

Orlando	32	16	.667	—
Atlanta	30	16	.652	1
Charlotte	24	23	.511	7 1/2
Miami	24	24	.500	8
Washington	16	31	.340	15 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	38	11	.776	—
Chicago	23	22	.511	13
Milwaukee	21	25	.457	15 1/2
Indiana	16	32	.333	21 1/2
Detroit	15	31	.326	21 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	30	18	.625	—
San Antonio	27	19	.587	2
Memphis	26	21	.553	3 1/2
New Orleans	26	22	.542	4
Houston	25	22	.532	4 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	33	15	.688	—
Utah	29	18	.617	3 1/2
Portland	29	21	.580	5
Oklahoma City	26	21	.553	6 1/2
Minnesota	11	38	.224	22 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	37	12	.755	—
Phoenix	29	21	.580	8 1/2
L.A. Clippers	20	27	.426	16
Sacramento	16	31	.340	20
Golden State	13	33	.283	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 99, Washington 88
Milwaukee 97, Miami 81
Memphis 95, L.A. Lakers 93
Phoenix 109, New Orleans 100
Denver 112, Sacramento 109, OT
Utah 104, Dallas 92
Portland 98, Charlotte 79

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	38	384	327	1130	29.7
Durant, OKC	47	462	400	1392	29.6
James, CLE	49	489	376	1443	29.4
Bryant, LAL	48	498	287	1344	28.0
Wade, MIA	47	447	328	1272	27.1
Ellis, GOL	44	448	205	1137	25.8
Nowitzki, DAL	46	412	303	1156	25.1
Bosh, TOR	48	409	330	1154	24.0
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Jamison, WAS	37	299	142	796	21.5
Johnson, ATL	46	388	129	984	21.4
Randolph, MEM	46	386	189	967	21.0
Stoudemire, PHX	49	385	255	1025	20.9
Maggette, GOL	45	296	332	933	20.7
Evans, SAC	42	312	214	859	20.5
Jackson, CHA	46	339	188	932	20.3
Kaman, LAC	41	345	138	828	20.2
Gay, MEM	44	331	178	875	19.9
Duncan, SAN	43	333	183	849	19.7
Rose, CHI	45	376	131	887	19.7

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	208	332	.627
Gasol, MEM	259	431	.601
Howard, ORL	275	459	.599
Hilario, DEN	248	426	.582
Bynum, LAL	290	510	.569
Horford, ATL	257	453	.567
Millsap, UTA	205	367	.559
O'Neal, CLE	200	359	.557
Haywood, WAS	173	312	.554
Stoudemire, PHX	385	696	.553

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	48	175	466	641	13.4
Noah, CHI	44	171	367	538	12.2
Camby, LAC	46	145	406	551	12.0
Randolph, MEM	46	207	327	534	11.6
Lee, NYK	47	118	422	540	11.5
Bosh, TOR	48	146	402	548	11.4
Wallace, CHA	45	92	403	495	11.0
Duncan, SAN	43	141	320	461	10.7
Boozer, UTA	45	86	396	482	10.7
Haywood, WAS	45	190	283	473	10.5

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Nash, PHX	49	544	11.1
Rondo, BOS	44	425	9.7
Williams, UTA	41	391	9.5
Kidd, DAL	46	423	9.2
James, CLE	49	394	8.0
B. Davis, LAC	47	374	8.0
Westbrook, OKC	47	346	7.4
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	47	298	6.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	8	0
Island Rebels	7	0
Man Amigos	8	1
Chura	6	1
SaiPal	7	2
Freedom Air Flyers	6	2
Ur Balls	5	2
San Roque	4	2
Hitz	4	3
Blazers	3	4
6-Pack	4	4
Red Eye	3	5
Calikano-Falcons	3	5
Go For Broke	3	5
G-Ballers	2	7
Ramblers	2	7
Berdax	1	5
Team Familia	1	6
Lancheros	1	6
X-Terminators	1	6
Team Fuegu	1	7

2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Prospects' Bonbon Cadagat tries to kick the ball out to his teammates.

Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama drives against Prospects' Chris Paul, left, and Darwin Barbo.

Ol'Aces' Gabriel White, left, and Prospects' Chris Paul jockey for position in the rebound player during Game 2 of their title series in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League last month at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Ol'Aces' Pete Iguel is guarded by Prospects' Derrick Aughenbaugh.

Prospects' Quincy Johnson dribbles out of trouble.

Ol'Aces' Ed Diaz goes for a layup against two Prospects defenders.

Prospects' Derrick Aughenbaugh, right, and Ol'Aces' Mike Olaitiman battle for the loose ball.

Prospects' Chris Paul, right, beats Ol'Aces' Romeo Iginoef in the rebound play.

Prospects' Mike Wright, right, picks up a loose ball.

UBA aims for bigger men's league

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kobe gets Lakers' scoring mark in loss to Memphis

PAGE 24

Guam spikers sweep Jam Attack

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jam Attack returned after missing in action last year with Guam spikers picking up where they left off, sweeping the men's and women's competitions held over the weekend at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Guam's Team Haggan stunned elimination round top finisher and Saipan's Fanians in the men's championship, notching a straight set win, 25-21, 25-16. In the women's division, Guam's Team Quality also swept Saipan's Margaritas in straight sets for the visitors' double celebration.

Its victory in the men's division 2010 edition of the Jam Attack Volleyball Tournament extended Guam's domination in the same event dating back five years ago. In 2005, Guam Bombers ruled the men's event, while Team Haggan topped the women's event. The following year, it was Guam's NU Heights' turn to rule the men's division, while Saipan's Pikan Gaga claimed the women's tiara. In 2007, Guam had an-

See GUAM on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Team Quality pose with their championship trophy after beating Margaritas in the finals of the 2010 Jam Attack Volleyball Tournament played over the weekend at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Right, Larry Sharry of men's division runners-up Fanians, goes for a kill during one of their games in the elimination round.

Pacquiao honored as best of decade by BWAA

BOXING

NEW YORK (AP)—Manny Pacquiao was honored as the fighter of the decade by the Boxing Writer's Association of America on Monday, along with matching Muhammad Ali and Evander Holyfield by winning his third fighter of the year award.

Pacquiao (50-3 with 2 draws and 38 KOs) capped off a remarkable decade by stopping welterweight Miguel Cotto in the final round in November to win a title in a record-setting seventh weight division. Pacquiao will return to the ring in March when he defends his WBO belt against Joshua Clottey at the $1.2 billion Cowboys Stadium in Dallas.

Pacquiao says he will accept his awards haul in person at the 85th boxing writers awards dinner on June 11 in New York City.

The reigning pound-for-pound king was chosen fighter of the decade over Bernard Hopkins, Joe Calzaghe, Floyd Mayweather Jr., Shane Mosley, Juan Manuel Marquez and Marco Antonio Barrera.

Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, was honored with a record-setting fourth Eddie Futch Award for trainer of the year. Futch once trained Roach, who eventually became his assistant and has gone on to train the likes of Israel Vazquez and James Toney.

Juan Manuel Marquez's ninth-round knockout of Juan Diaz was picked as

See PACQUIAO on Page 34

AP

Champion Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, poses for a photograph during a news conference on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, in New York, to promote an upcoming fight against Joshua Clottey.

Back-to-back wins for Heo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ITF International Tennis Federation

CNMI junior player Ji Hoon Heo got off to a strong start in his second tournament in New Zealand after claiming two wins in the 2010 Auckland 18 & Under ITF Summer Championships.

Heo, who was unseeded in the 48-player main draw, was paired against Thailand's Sirawit Yumuang and cruised to a straight set victory on Monday, 6-1, 6-2, to advance to the second round.

In the second round, the Marianas High School student pulled off an upset over the No. 14 seed Takuma Ohashi of

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 34

Heo

SaiPal wins lone game in Chamolinian league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mother Nature struck again, canceling three matches in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slowpitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

SaiPal and G-Ballers just completed the first game of the night and Berdax and Team Familia were warming up for the second match when heavy rain poured, forcing organizers to call it a night.

The cancellation of the remaining games frustrated fans who drove to Capital Hill Ballfield for the highly-anticipated match between two unbeaten teams, Island Rebels and Natibu. Natibu is leading the league with its immaculate 8-0 record, while Island Rebels are not far behind, also holding a clean 7-0 slate.

Naibu and Island Rebels are in the Top 5 of the team standings in the 21-squad field, joining Man Amigos (8-1), Chura (6-1), and SaiPal (7-2).

SaiPal notched its seventh win in nine games after downing G-Ballers, 15-4.

Right fielder Kuich Damian went only 1-for-3 at bat for SaiPal, but blasted a three-run homer at the top of the

See SAIPAL on Page 34